Daily Report

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FBIS-LAT-89-019 *31 January 1989*

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ACP/EEC Commission Meeting Ends 27 Jan

FL3101035289 Bridgetown CANA in English 2008 GMT 28 Jan 89

[By Mark Lee]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 28, CANA—The joint assembly of African, Caribbean and Pacific and European Economic Community countries ended here Friday with delegates expressing mixed feelings on what was achieved.

"It was one of the best meetings in the assembly's history," said co-president of the joint assembly, Giovanni Bersani, Friday. He referred to the record attendance of 52 of the 66 delegations in the ACP/EEC grouping as well as "hard serious debate," and taking the example of the demands of the Caribbean in the negotiations on the next Lome trade and aid convention, said, "what the Caribbean now wants is more clearly identified" to the EEC.

"Talk, talk, talk, talk for talk sake," is how one displeased Senegalese representative described the proceedings earlier in the week. The Africans charge that the EEC did not take the ACP seriously got support from several non-European delegates who felt they were being treated like the junior partners in the association, who only wanted aid but were uninterested in really developing their economies.

Some 30 resolutions were accepted by the assembly with topics as diverse and seemingly non political as protection of the environment, to the sensitive issue of securing commodity markets and prices, and urging solutions pertaining to Namibian independence and apartheid in South Africa. The passage of the resolutions does not mean automatic results. "What it means is that the assembly agrees that something ought to be done about a situation," said Yvette Cross of the Jamaican delegation based in Brussels, the seat of ACP/EEC commission.

"Since the EEC Parliament rubber stamps the decisions of the European Commission it is important that they be sensitive to how the ACP feels about certain issues," she said.

That was an objective of the meeting as outlined by Barbados Trade Minister Evelyn Greaves and at a news conference Saturday he expressed pleasure at that being achieved. From the clearcut position that something ought to be done, diplomats and ministers will debate how it is to be done.

The English-speaking Caribbean Community of 13 countries were not enthused by the idea of admitting former French colony Haiti and Spanish Dominican Republic—both in the heart of the Caribbean on the island of Hispaniola—to participate in the Lome convention. The arguments against take in Haiti's human rights record and that there has never been a joint resolution for acceptance of two countries to the ACP or the EEC. But the real question appears to be the expansion of the beneficiaries in protected and preferential commodities market arrangements.

"You are talking about a real threat," said one Caricom minister. "As it is we (Caricom) are only about five million, Haiti alone has that population and the market is not expanding. The regional funds (from the EEC) will remain the same."

The ruling British conservatives who support the idea of free market demand and supply forces determining prices, side with their former colonies in the admission issue. "We would not like to take a line against what the ACP wants and what the Caribbean ACP's want," said Briton, Andrew Pearce, of the conservative block in the European Parliament and European co-chairman of the just ended joint assembly. And he was unequivocal in oppositing the admission of Latin American countries to the convention as Spain is advocating.

The assembly accepted a "watered down" version of the resolution seeking support for Haiti and the Dominican Republic's membership asking only that the matter be studied at the meeting of the Council of Ministers next month in Brazzaville.

British interests virtually control marketing of the banana industries of the Caribbean while Central American countries supply an abundance of cheaper bananas. The Caribbean got much support from Britain in a resolution for continued protection of its banana, sugar and rum and rice quotas and prices at levels no less than current levels in the context of the 1992 single European Market and the successor to the current Lome agreement. On the other hand, a resolution by the British rapporteur of the working group of technology, training and development did not even get to the assembly.

Caribbean and African groups objected to the "scant and off-hand" report with the West Indians being concerned that at any rate it paid little attention to their problems at a time when industrialisation is such a pressing need to turn around their social and economic situation. That resolution will be dealt with when the assembly meets in France next September.

On the southern Africa issues of independence for Namibia and the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa, socialist and communist blocks were leading the call for sanctions. The conservatives were calling for the setting up of a forum to seek to dismantle apartheid, using the removal of sanctions as a "carrot". The conservatives lost out.

From here, the talks go to Brazzaville where the ACP/EEC Council of Ministers will meet next month and in the interim the ambassadors and technocrats will continue to hammer out details for increased cooperation between the groups.

Cuba

Further on Visit by Guyanese President Hoyte

Medal Ceremony Described

FL2701201689 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has bestowed the Jose Marti Order—the highest decoration conferred by the Cuban Government—on Hugh Desmond Hoyte, president of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers and member of the PCC Politburo, read the resolution conferring the high award to the Guyanese head of state:

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] Esteemed President Desmond Hoyte, esteemed Comrade Fidel Castro, esteemed comrades and friends: Since the beginning, the Cuban Revolution has felt the warm and continued support of the Guyanese people. Their political parties, popular organizations, working class representatives, intellectuals, and statesmen expressed active solidarity with the Cuban revolutionary process in many different ways and at various times.

The friendship between our peoples has been expressed in ways other than with an official statement. It strengthened with personal relations of friendship. They reached their maximum expression with the meetings and joint trips made by Burnham and Fidel Castro.

The fact that we are Caribbean countries unites us. The fact that we are underdeveloped countries unites us. The fact that we are nonaligned countries unites us. The fact that we are members of the Group of 77 unites us. In sum, everything that motivates our struggles, our hopes, and our aspirations for a safer future unite us. This is why it is not strange that we agree at the United Nations and other international organizations where debates on peace take place, where discussions are held on Central America, on Namibia's independence, on the fate of Palestinians. Cuba and Guyana think together and work jointly.

For all these reasons, esteemed Comrade Hoyte, and mainly for your proven friendship toward Cuba, the Council of State has decided to confer on you our country's highest decoration. The order is named after Jose Marti, the one who made our thwarted freedom efforts come true because of his heroic death, among other reasons. He was the one who inspired those who attacked the Moncada Barracks in order to begin to achieve the national independence we had not reached before, and he is the permanent guide in our efforts to attain man's full dignity.

Receive it from the hands of Comrade Fidel Castro as an expression of our friendship and our recognition. [video shows Castro pinning medal on Hoyte and embracing him, audience applauds]

[Unidentified speaker reads Hoyte's remarks while Hoyte stands next to her] I express my deep appreciation to you, Comrade Fidel Castro, and all the Cuban people for the high honor you have conferred on me and my country. I will view it in the spirit with which you have given it to me: as a symbol of endless friendship and cooperation between our two peoples. Thank you very much. [applause] [end recording]

At the end of the decoration ceremony, a reception in honor of the Guyanese president and the delegation he heads was offered at the Palace of Conventions.

Castro, Hoyte at Isle of Youth

FL3001131789 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro believes that Namibia's independence is a fact that cannot be changed. Fidel made this statement yesterday as he spoke to thousands of Namibian students on the Isle of Youth. The Cuban president accompanied Guyanese Chief of State Hugh Desmond Hoyte on a tour of the special municipality.

Fidel said that what is important now is to ensure that the racists and their allies not steal from Namibians their independence. He said that one of the factors to ensure it doesn't happen is to not reduce the size of the UN force which will monitor the transition. The chief of the Cuban state added that the Nonaligned Movement is fighting a tense battle in the UN against the proposal for reduction due to economic reasons. Fidel said that the UN Secretariat's general report, which is proposing the reduction, does not satisfy Third World countries or the friends of the just cause of the Namibian people. Nevertheless, he stated that free elections will not only depend on the presence of the UN force, but also on the mobilization and unity of the Namibian people. The Cuban president emphasized that, along with independence, a people's government, SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization], is necessary in Namibia. He added that we have no doubt that the large majority will vote against the oppressors and their puppets.

The Guyanese president, who also spoke during the event, called the school for Namibian students a wonderful example of human solidarity. Desmond Hoyte said: You are privileged because there are millions of children and young people like yourselves who do not have the opportunity to get an education. In closing, the Guyanese leader urged the Namibian students to get the training that will become the heritage of their fatherland when they return there.

Other centers visited yesterday by Fidel and Desmond Hoyte were the old Model Prison and a tableware factory. The two leaders also met with the Korean students who are studying on the island.

Hoyte, upon his arrival, was welcomed by large representation of the island's residents.

Castro Addresses Namibian Students

FL3001183889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at the Hendrick Witbooi School on the Isle of Youth on 29 January—recorded]

[Text] It is not that I really feel like giving a speech, it is just that [word indistinct] difficult to say a few words.

Dear President Hoyte, student comrades of the Isle of Youth, Namibian comrades: During the 10 years that the school has been in operation, I have visited you on numerous occasions. I have spoken a few words of encouragement, motivation, and hope.

Today, [words indistinct] that there has been a great change. Already we speak of the future, we speak of the present, we do not speak of tomorrow. We can speak of today as a result of the heroic struggle of the Namibian people and Angolan and Cuban combatants, and of the broad international solidarity which the just and noble cause of the Namibian people has received.

The racists, fascists, and oppressors of Namibia have had no other alternative but to recognize Namibia's right to independence. All that is moving along. I will not explain it to you, because you know about the events of 1987, a difficult, tense year. You know about what happened, not only in the military terrain, but also in the political and diplomatic arena. After prolonged and arduous negotiations, and based on the new correlation of forces created in southwest Africa, agreements were reached. Based on these agreements, UN Resolution 435 is beginning to be implemented. This has been a long, complicated process, and you know that the United Nations must participate in that process. According to the resolution, they are supposed to assume responsibility for the independence process in Namibia.

You must realize that the United Nations has fought a great battle. In the midst of the Security Council, the nonaligned countries have closed ranks to opinions of even the permanent Security Council members, who, by arguing economic reasons, advocate the reduction of the troops that will be present in Namibia when the implementation of UN Resolution 435 begins. This deeply concerned all friends of the Namibian cause. A battle was fought, and at the end an agreement was achieved and unanimously signed by the Security Council. It is a very acceptable agreement and in line with the objectives sought. Although in the agreement it was recommended that efforts be made for a reduction of expenses, it did not mention reduction of troops. The UN secretary general and his team of colaborators wrote a report. That report does not satisfy us. That report does not satisfy Third World countries. That report does not satisfy the Nonaligned Movement countries because the report talks about starting out with a group not of 7,500 men, but of approximately 4,650 and, if necessary, to increase it later. We feel the reverse would have been much better: to begin with the 7,500 established by Resolution 435 and to reduce it later if such a high number seemed to not be necessary, or if part of them could be done without. Therefore, the secretary general's report does not satisfy the Third World or the nonaligned countries. In every instance, it only satisfies the five permanent Security Council members who have acted closely in this—the group which holds the privilege of the right to veto UN resolutions.

That is why the Nonaligned Movement continues fighting its battle and exerting pressure. The countries of the Organization of African Unity also continue struggling and working. All the friends of the Namibian cause continue working, warning, denouncing the dangers and consequences that any error in this matter could have.

The issue right now is to guarantee the impartiality of the elections, to avoid manipulations of the electoral process, to avoid traps and fraud in the elections, and to prevent the racists and their allies from sowing fear in the people of Namibia, thereby preventing them from freely expressing themselves. The friends of the Namibian cause have been denouncing this and issuing warnings about it, and they will continue struggling, fighting, and mobilizing public and international opinion so that it will be very difficult for the racists to manipulate the elections.

I (?don't) think it would be easy for them to do that. However, it doesn't hurt to take extra steps and measures to make it impossible for the racists to mock the Namibian people's will. On the other hand, I hope that the five permanent Security Council members are aware of the great responsibility they will have if the racists are able to mock the free determination and election of the Namibian people. Of course, that will not only depend on the UN soldiers that will be there, nor will it only depend on the civilian officials present. The country is large, and that is why those men must be dispersed in a vast area to control and monitor all of it. As I said, it will not depend so much on them as it will on the people of Namibia.

It is the Namibian people who will have to be mobilized and united to fight this last battle, this political battle. It is necessary to mobilize the whole nation, everywhere. It is necessary to explain as many times as is necessary what the struggle has been about, what the interests of the Namibian people are, and what the Namibian people should do. That is why on 1 April, the date set for the implementation of UN Resolution 435, a new and very important phase in the history of Namibia will begin.

Independence will not be prevented. However, independence by itself does not suffice. Sometimes there are independent countries that have puppet governments, anti-popular governments, or reactioanry governments. There must be independence and a people's government. In two words: There must be independence and a SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] government—just like that, in those words. [applause] [crowd shouts: Cheers for the SWAPO! Cheers for Sam Nujoma! The regime of South Africa will be ours!]

That is why we have no doubts about what the Namibian people will do. In completely free and clean elections, the large majority of the Namibian people will vote against the oppressors, the racists and their puppets. That is why it is so important that the people are organized and guided during this phase. I think the SWAPO will have to become deeply committed in that political task.

Resolution 435 includes the return of refugees. Resolution 435 had cited a certain figure for that return. Now, in that report on saving money for the United Nations, they don't even talk about those funds. They say it will depend on voluntary contributions.

I think that many countries will cooperate voluntarily. [words indistinct] a report from the UN secretary general. The return of exiles and refugees is very important, so that they can participate in the political battle. This is why it has been said that all Namibian students in Cuba who meet the age requirement to participate in that process should return to Namibia after the implementation of UN Resolution 435 to work on the tasks of educating and training the people, as well as to vote in the elections. Not a single vote can be lost. This will be a great new experience for you, for a great number of you who are here in the Isle of Youth and throughout the country. There are several hundred of you. You will have to finish your courses. You are ready to leave, to move to Namibia when the SWAPO indicates it is time.

You will participate in that political process and then return to Cuba. You should not miss your studies. Of course, the other matter is very important, and everything else is subordinate to this. However, there is no need to drop your studies. After you leave, there will still be time to finish the school year.

You are not just studying in secondary, preuniversity, or technological schools. Some of you are studying in universities. It would truly be a shame to interrupt those studies. No one can guarantee that 100 percent of those who leave will return, because that's life. It's not that you won't want to return. It's that you are a very valuable group. You are well-educated, prepared, organized, and disciplined. I think it is possible that the SWAPO may need some of you there later, even though it has been said that everyone will go and an effort will be made to return everyone so that not a single person's studies are interrupted. You will be much more useful to the country if you can finish your training. The more training you have, the better able you will be to serve the country in the future. However, life is life and I think that there is no doubt that not all of you will return because your organization may need you there. They are as aware as we are of the convenience of your return. If some of you have to interrupt your studies, it should be [words indistinct].

Because of this, comrades from Namibia, a new chapter is opening in your lives and in the life of your country. This is a new experience. Now you have to be more serious than ever, more organized than ever, more studious than ever, and more responsible than ever. The tasks on the shoulders of those of you who have reached the age of 18 are very important. They are decisive tasks.

That is why on a day like today we combine joy—the great joy of knowing that independence is a fact that no one can prevent—with your emotion of participating in that process and with our emotion in following that process from close by. We also combine feelings of sadness, although this may seem like a paradox, because we think that we may have to say good-bye to some of you. Some of you may not return after the process. In any case, however, we will always hope that you do not forget your Cuban comrades and that at one time or another, in one form or another, you will return, even if it is only for a visit, to this country that has been like a second fatherland for the Namibian students. [applause]

New generations of students will come here. We have two schools and there is discussion about a third school. Children are the most abundant resource in Namibia. The most abundant resource in Namibia are the youths. During the first few years, you will not have all the facilities, all the schools to train those children, those youths. That will take time. However, you can continue to count on us for that task. You will have here one, two, three, four schools, however many schools you need for the youths and students of Namibia. [applause]

You have now created the tradition. You have crossed the line. I imagine that even the content of the songs will change. The songs will no longer be of dreams to liberate the fatherland. The songs will now be of a liberated fatherland. The songs will correspond to the new life you want to construct in your country. [Words indistinct] the drama of Cassinga which is shown here. It would be good to leave the memory—even if it's only a videocassette—of that impressive spectacle which you demonstrate here to the visitors. I think, however, that your tasks will be different and your hopes and feelings [words indistinct]

We will never forget Cassinga. That's very good. We will never forget it. It should never be forgotten. We must remember it a lot. We must remember it always. We must remember it now. Those photos of the monstrous massacres, of the repugnant massacres, should be reproduced by the thousands, by the hundreds of thousands, by the millions, to show the people what the facists and racists are capable of doing against men, women, elderly

people, and children of Namibia. It is possible that a large part of the population cannot read or write. It is possible that there may even be sectors in a part of Namibia that cannot communicate with sectors from another part because there is no common language. However, I think that eyesight is eloquent; those photos can be understood by any man or woman in any language, by anyone of any age, including children. Millions of those photos should be taken and spread throughout the country so that they can see that the people who vote for the puppets are voting for the allies of the assassins, for the allies of the racists and the facists, for those who despise the peoples, and for those who have caused the Namibian people to shed rivers of blood.

I am sure that you will be capable of fulfilling the tasks the SWAPO expects of you. I am sure that you will soon think, as Che said: Until the victory always!

Fatherland or death, we will win!

Hoyte Departure Reported

FL3001184889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, bid farewell to Hugh Desmond Hoyte, executive president of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, just a few hours ago. [video shows Castro and Hoyte embracing as they say good-bye; Vilma Espin, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo, is also present]

Vice President Rodriguez Arrives in Venezuela

Agenda Reported

FL3001124789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez has arrived in Caracas to take part in the South Commission meeting and in the activities marking the upcoming inauguration of Carlos Andres Peres as the new president of Venezuela.

The Cuban leader will attend a meeting today with Third World leaders who make up the South Commission, an initiative of the nonaligned countries that was created after the Harare summit.

The commission, headed by former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, will meet today in the resort of Caraballeda, which is approximately 45 km from Caracas.

It was also reported in the Venezuelan capital that 21 former presidents, most of them Latin Americans, have been invited to the inauguration of Andres Perez, in addition to those 24 chiefs of state and governments and 90 delegations that will be attending the event.

'No Decision' on Castro Trip

FL3001185789 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, who is participating today in a special meeting of the south commission with Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez, stressed the new president's efforts to solve the foreign debt problem. He added that the process of unifying to confront the debt will strengthen with the new president's assumption of office because Andres Perez is one of the promoters of this cause.

Carlos Rafael also placed much importance on the direct invitation President Carlos Andres Perez made to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro to attend the inauguration in Caracas on 2 February. Cuba has made no decision on this, said Carlos Rafael, but he stressed that the government, as well as the Cuban people, have understood the meaning of the invitation. To Cuba, he added, this is an act of the greatest importance because we have been struggling for years for Latin American integration, a position which Fidel has maintained for many years.

Carlos Rafael said that the Third World, which is comprised of underdeveloped countries, has to defend its common interests now more than ever and must mobilize in view of the developing international circumstances. He said this is characterized by a growing understanding between the countries of the North, a solution to the fundamental problems of war and peace, and a growth in nuclear disarmament in the international sphere.

In reference to the policies of the new U.S. Government, Carlos Rafael said that it is still too early to get an idea of what President George Bush thinks about Latin America. Nevertheless, he felt that changes should occur. He said that the irrational Latin American policy of Ronald Reagan cannot continue, but he reiterated that it is still too early to reach conclusions on what George Bush will do.

Attends 'South Commission' Meeting

FL3101033289 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba, participated in a South Commission meeting held in Caracas today at the invitation of Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez. Our special correspondent Pedro Ventura Fernandez reports from the Venezuelan capital:

[Ventura Fernandez] Perez invited a group of members of the commission, basically Latin American, for a special program on the occasion of his inauguration.

[Begin recording] [Carlos Rafael Rodriguez] It has been useful for us to once more realize how important the South is and, at the same time, see how important it is to

mobilize the South. I believe all of us are aware that we have lost a lot of strength in the South in the last few years. We need to make relations more dynamic. As (Mariangeli), one of the members of the commission, said, we need to find the spirit of the South. I belic e this is very important and that this has been achieved here among us.

[Ventura Fernandez] Do you believe this meeting has been a positive one? [words indistinct]

[Rodriguez, interrupting] It has been very productive. We thanked Carlos Andres for giving us the opportunity to meet. [end recording]

[Ventura Fernandez] Along with Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, also present were Julius Nyerere, president of the commission; Enrique Iglesias, president of the Inter-American Development Bank, BID; Aldo Ferrer, from Argentina; (Celso Fortado), from Brazil; and Jorge Eduardo Navarrete, from Mexico; among others.

[Begin Enrique Iglesias recording] I believe one of the tasks the commission could carry out—and this is a very personal opinion—is a self-criticism of the problems that concern us and affect us today. On this occasion, in which we are surrounded by so many people since the entire world is gathering in Caracas, I believe it is very good that we reflect on ourselves. I believe this is one of the goals in which the commission could make progress. [end recording]

[Ventura Fernandez] The South Commission, composed of political, economic, and social figures, attempts to achieve a common strategy for underdeveloped countries to deal successfully with the economic policy of industrialized countries. As is known, they cause serious problems to underdeveloped economies, especially because of the burden of foreign debt interest payments and the implementation of an unjust and unequal international economic trade.

[Begin recording] [Ventura Fernandez] We are aware of the economic situation Venezuela is going through, especially with the drop in oil prices. What are your government's plans to deal with the payment of foreign debt interests?

[Carlos Andres Perez] The foreign debt problem—as I have noted—is the most enormous obstacle all developing countries face in order to reinitiate a process of economic growth and social welfare. If we do not overcome this obstacle we are not going to be able to get ahead. I am convinced that we do not have a way out individually.

Developing countries need to unite in our actions to increase our negotiation power and, in this way, get to be heard by industrialized countries. We are presently making an effort in this sense.

I just came from the world meeting of businessmen in Davos, Switzerland where I presented the problem very bluntly. I talked to the president of the IMF, the U.S. secretary of economy [as heard], the FRG minister for economics, and other figures in an attempt to get to be heard and to look for a solution. I believe that the time has come for true Latin American unity.

[Ventura Fernandez] Do you believe your government can influence the achievement of this unity?

[Perez] At least, this will be my goal and my permanent and unrelenting action.

[Ventura Fernandez] There is another thing related to the Latin American economic integrationI that I would like to mention. Do you believe you can personally have an influence in this process beginning in Latin America?

[Perez] I have to make every effort, of course. I firmly believe that Latin America has no other alternative. See what we have before us: the EEC becoming a large market in the world, the United States is another large economic community, and Japan. This is speaking of the markets in what is called the Western world. If these three markets unite and negotiate among themselves, what is going to happen to us Latin American countries? I believe the events and circumstances are fatal and dramatic. We either unite or others will unite for us and we will be more and more dependent. [end recording]

Further on 'October Crisis' Symposium in USSR

Causes of Crisis 'Still Exist'

FL3001134989 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo, has said that Cuba considers that the reasons that led up to the October crisis in 1962 still exist. Risquet made this statement in Moscow while he attended a conference on the subject. Risquet said the main reason for the crisis was the United States' unwillingness to recognize the existence of a socialist revolution in Cuba.

In addition to the Cuban delegation, Soviet and U.S. personalities participated in the meeting.

Jorge Risquet offered our country as host for a future trilateral meeting to continue discussing aspects regarding the October crisis.

More Risquet Comments Cited

FL3001155889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Report by Cuban television correspondent Ismael Tantaw from Moscow]

[Text] [Words indistinct] The delegates participating in the 2-day symposium on the 1962 October crisis, which was held in Moscow, granted a news conference here in the Soviet capital.

Representatives from the USSR, the United States, and Cuba summarized the views of their respective delegations. (Georgiy Chaknasarov), chief of the CPSU International Department, said that these 2 days of talks in a friendly atmosphere have been very productive because a greater awareness of the October crisis has developed.

For his part, Robert McNamara, former U.S. Defense Secretary during the Kennedy administration, stressed that we must learn to handle crises. He said he was certain that these crises must be reduced and eventually eliminated.

PCC Politburo member Jorge Risquet Valdes expressed Cuba's viewpoint on the crisis to personalities and leaders who were linked, directly or indirectly, to those events that occurred a little more than 26 years ago. Risquet stressed:

[Begin Risquet recording] While the world is freeing itself of nuclear weapons, I want to say that those of us from small countries will always be exposed to aggression from powerful countries. Prior to the existence of nuclear weapons, several countries throughout the world—weak countries from a military point of view—were subjected to colonialism for centuries by the countries that were militarily powerful. This danger will always exist for small countries. Because of this, it is important—as I have just said—that international relations throughout the world be reinforced on the basis of strictly respecting each nation's complete independence and sovereignty, as well as their right to freely choose their social regime without any foreign interference. [end recording]

'Important Revelations' Noted

FL3001160489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] The symposium on the 1962 October crisis continues in Moscow. Representatives from the Soviet Union, the United States, and Cuba are participating.

During his speech, Jorge Risquet Valdes [member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo] said: We would consider it better that we meet at the table to discuss those things that unite us and not in the battlefield to discuss those which separate us. We are fervent advocates of peace, so much that we are advocates of the independence of large and small nations. We hope that this conference, this symposium, sheds light on those events, and that we can learn from it for the benefit of present and future humanity—a humanity we want to be for peace, a humanity where all countries maintain their complete national independence, and a humanity where Third World countries can attain a high level of development.

[Begin recording] [Ismael Tantaw, Cuban correspondent to the USSR] I have been able to look at several questionnaires from the Soviet and U.S. delegations. The Cuban delegation also has a questionnaire.

[Risquet] That is right. The U.S. delegation presented a 97-item questionnaire. Out of those 97 questions that we can answer, we are ready to answer those which pertain to Cuba. Others questions are for the Soviet Union. We also presented a questionnaire with over 50 questions. We have many interesting things to ask them, especially the U.S. delegation. And (?today) the Soviet delegation got excited, and they also presented a questionnaire. I don't know how many questions are on it. We don't have it in our hands yet, but they also have a questionnaire. [end recording]

Important revelations are coming out of this symposium on the 1962 October crisis. It turns out that 3 weeks after reaching an agreement to end the conflict, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff proposed an attack on two Cuban airports to destroy the Soviet IL-28 bombers stationed in our country. The United States had demanded the removal of the planes because it considered them strategic weapons. The proposal was not supported by President Kennedy. Jorge Risquet, head of the Cuban delegation, clarified that the bombers were only used for fighting the pirate boats [lanchas piratas] and their mother ships which harassed our country. This is one of the elements which shows that the crisis was not a 13-day event, like some Western theoreticians say, but a much longer process before and after the days of tension.

One of the sources of vital importance for studying what happened is the correspondence, still secret, between Kennedy and Khruschev, which consisted of over 40 letters written between September 1961 and November 1963.

Internationalist Troops Arrive From Angola

FL3101002089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2040 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Thousands of Havana residents are giving a warm welcome to nearly 1,000 Cuban internationalist combatants who have just arrived in the fatherland after sailing from the People's Republic of Angola for 21 days. The internationalists arrived in Cuba aboard the Soviet ship "(Fiodor Shaliati)" while previous groups did the same by air.

From the bay's entrance and throughout the entire port avenue, the victorious defenders of the sovereignty of the People's Republic of Angola received shows of affection and admiration from all the people who spontaneously went to welcome them because of their triumph. The internationalist combatants, who assisted the sister African nation, will be officially welcomed at the FAR's Universal Hall this afternoon.

Welcomed by Raul Castro

FL3101020789 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and FAR minister, has presided over a welcome ceremony for Cuban internationalists held at the FAR's Universal Hall.

[Begin recording] [video shows crowd chanting] [Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, member of the PCC Politburo, identified by caption] The veteran Cuban internationalist combatants, who have represented our people and their most sacred principles of solidarity with such courage and honor, will have new and far-reaching duties in the great struggle we face in order to take forward the economic and social development of our fatherland and improve socialism.

Our party and the commander in chief are certain that you will join production and defense tasks with the same courage, spirit of sacrifice, and decision with which you fought in Angola. They are unavoidable duties of the time to guarantee the progress and strength of our socialism, which came to this continent for the first time through our dear fatherland and is here to stay forever. [applause]

[Raul Castro] You will be welcomed when you arrive in your province, you will be welcomed when you arrive in you municipality, and you will be welcomed when you arrive on your block. [laughter] This is understandable. Consider it political work. You can rest after that and, later, to work. [applause]

Finally, all of you receive an embrace from the commander in chief. [applause] [end recording]

Castro Guarantees Jobs for Returning Soldiers

PA3001030789 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] In Havana today, Cuban President Fidel Castro reaffirmed that the 50,000 internationalist soldiers who will return from Angola in the next 2 and ½ years have their jobs ensured. Fidel Castro spoke to hundreds of persons who met at the Che's Dreams Day Care Center. The center was constructed with the help of Latin American volunteers and was officially inaugurated today, along with 53 other day care centers. Addressing a group of internationalist soldiers attending the ceremony, Fidel Castro noted that the country was honored to have the young force that had attained peace with honor in Angola, opened the path to guarantee Namibia's independence, and participated in its development.

The Cuban president stated that more than 100 day care centers had been constructed in the past 2 years and that since the demand for this type of facility has mostly been met, the priority in construction during 1989 will be directed toward economic projects and the facilities presently being constructed for the 1991 Pan-American Games. Priority will also be given to the construction of housing, family doctor clinics, hospital additions, and other social projects, he added.

In closing, Fidel Castro said that the inauguration of the 54 day care centers was a beautiful way to honor the national hero Jose Marti on the anniversary of his birth, because Marti loved children very much.

Hart on U.S. Attitude Toward Latin America

FL3101005589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2041 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart Davalos said in Rome today that the new U.S. Administration will show its real attitude toward Latin America when it establishes its position on Nicaragua. Hart said it is still premature to judge President George Bush's future actions. He added that Bush has to realize that changes have taken place in Latin America to the extent that most of the countries in the area are trying to form a common front to outline a joint policy.

Regarding the influence the extreme right-wing intellectuals have in the power structures of the United States, the Cuban minister said this force's new program, called Santa Fe Two, is aimed at attacking Latin American unity. Hart said these doctrines are the truly totalitarian ones and need to be dismantled ideologically.

The Cuban culture minister, who is on an official visit to Italy, discounted views that attempt to show unyielding differences between our country and the USSR regarding perestroyka. The idea that all revolutions have to be the same constitutes a schema, said Hart. He remembered that we were accused before of copying the Soviet Union. This is false because the Cuban Revolution has had an original projection throughout its history.

Regarding Latin America, Hart noted that the economic crisis in the region is bringing about radical actions. He cited the case of municipal elections in Argentina, where the left-wing triumphed. The Cuban minister said that our country wants a democratic government to strengthen in Argentina and that President Raul Alfonsin's authority is not undermined.

Raul Castro Greets CTC on 50th Anniversary

FL2801125889 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1234 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, minister of the FAR, has sent warm and combative greetings to the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions] on behalf of the armed forces on the occasion of the CTC's 50th anniversary. As part of the festivities, Roberto Veiga and Rene Penalver, secretary general and second secretary general of the CTC respectively, together with Jorge Lezcano, first secretary of the PCC in Havana, presented the trade union's 50th anniversary seal to 38 of its founders.

The national main event marking the CTC's 50th anniversary will be held tonight at Havana's Garcia Lorca Theater, where the constituent congress of the Workers Federation of Cuba met in 1939. A postage stamp will be issued and a plaque will be unveiled to commemorate the date.

Human Rights Activists Reportedly Sentenced

PA2701203489 Paris AFP in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Havana, 27 Jan (AFP)—Members of the "Human Rights Party" told several international news agencies that three group members were sentenced in Havana yesterday to jail terms ranging from 3 months to 1 year.

They added that Manuel Gonzalez was sentenced to 1 year in jail, his wife Lidia Gonzalez was sentenced to 6 months, and their son Manuel was sentenced to 3 months. The Cuban police had raided their home on 23 January.

According to the sources, the police confiscated the group's papers, including mimeographed copies of the "Human Rights Party" publication FRANQUEZA, which the group had begun to issue regularly.

Also seized was a list with over 14,000 signatures supporting a request for a referendum that the group was planning to submit to the Cuban Government, the sources added.

Dissidents Establish New Organization

PA2801195689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0527 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Havana, 27 Dec (EFE)—Cuban dissidents have created an organization called the Cuban Christian Democratic Committee [Comite Cubano Democratico Cristiano], its promotors have stated in a communique issued to the Western media.

Jose Luis Becerra, a former member of the Cuban Human Rights Committee who had been jailed for 2 years for leaving the country illegally, is the president of the new organization.

Becerra, who described himself to the press as a poet, has written three works that, according to him, "are in the hands of state security."

Carlos Novoa, a former member of the For Free Art Association and the Cuban Human Rights Committee, is the organization's vice president.

According to the communique, the new committee has approximately 300 followers and its objective is to struggle to achieve full respect for the rights and freedoms of Cubans.

Program Discusses Future U.S. Foreign Policy

FL2701224289 [Editorial Report] Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish at 0130 GMT on 27 January carries its regularly scheduled "International View" program. The program's subject is the new U.S. Administration and it lasts approximately 25 minutes.

Program host Eduardo Dimas states they will not talk about the persons who will participate in the administration, but about the possible prospects for the development of its internal and foreign policy. Dimas has invited two in-studio guests to discuss the subject. He introduces them as Carlos Azulgaray, vice rector of the Higher Institute of International Relations, and Valentin Rodriguez, a specialist in the field.

Dimas begins the discussion by saying that it is evident that from the middle to the end of the Reagan administration there have been changes in U.S. policy. The changes have been from "a policy of force to a more pragmatic, political policy," says Dimas. He says this is due to the changes that have been taking place in the international arena and that "the world of 1981 is obviously not the same as the world of 1988."

He says that a very important factor in analyzing any U.S. phenomenon is its economic situation and he asks his guests their opinion on it.

Azulgaray says the U.S. economic problem is such that it lives from credit and beyond its means. It consumes and spends much more than what it produces. This is first challenge the administration has to deal with, he says. The balance of payments of the United States is no longer compensated for by the money from multinational corporations, he adds. The military budget is huge and cuts to it are being proposed, he says.

Rodriguez adds: "There is the feeling among the U.S. leading class that the U.S. is not in a position at this time to maintain all that military apparatus and foreign military commitment. There is a lot of talk about the United States no longer being able to face all its international commitments, which date back to the end of World War II." He cites as an example the trade deficit with European countries, and says that the United States to a large degree pays for the military bases and forces for

the defense of those countries. So, adds Rodriguez, "it is said that this is the main national security priority for the United States right now, and not the so-called Soviet threat as it was believed to be early in the Reagan administration."

Dimas says that besides the problem of the budget deficit there is another aspect which he considers important: the possibility of a trade war with the EEC. However, he says, "a solution will be found sooner or later because I don't believe that it is their policy to destroy one another. Another problem is also the well-known U.S. deficits with Japan." So he says, it is logical for these issues to form part of the priorities of the current U.S. Administration.

Dimas addresses the issue of disarmament talks and asks his guests about the possibilities for their continuation. Rodriguez says that it is almost a necessity that they be continued. However, he adds that "Bush must act cautiously because he doesn't have the popularity or the support from the extreme right that Reagan had." Azulgaray also says that he thinks the agreements reached with the USSR will be maintained.

They turn to the subject of aid to the Nicaraguan contras. "I do not mean," says Dimas, "that Bush will continue the policy on the contras." "What will happen," says Rodriguez, "is that, as a matter of principle, they will not abandon the alternative of aid to the contras. Nevertheless, in each situation, they will adapt to the conditions." "However," says Azulgaray, "the one thing that is certain is that for the U.S. Administration, Nicaragua was a trauma in U.S. policy. It was a failed policy. Therefore, one can say that this administration will not forget about the failed policy of the Reagan administration. This trauma will persist. What will probably be maintained is a certain cautiousness."

Dimas adds that "the policy is undergoing reformation." Furthermore, Rodriguez says, "there is lack of internal consensus" on Third World conflicts. "Briefly, I would like to add," says Azulgaray, "that an important challenge in terms of internal matters is the search for a bipartisan consensus. And regarding Central America, U.S. policy needs a bipartisan consensus." Dimas says that they need it for El Salvador also. "There is consensus on the need for consensus," says Rodriguez.

Dimas concludes by saying "I would like to clarify the following point: These changes in policy should not be seen as a change in strategy. They are simply tactical changes which pursue the same objectives. Regardless of who the President is, or what the Government of the United States is, the same power groups which have historically governed in the United States will continue to govern. These are the same power groups that have used force, that famous theory of the carrot and the stick. The only difference may be that this time they may use a little more of the carrot and less of the stick. However, the policy and the objectives of this policy will remain the same: to maintain U.S. economic, political, and military supremacy in the world, and to maintain its influence. However, to achieve this they will need to change, because the world is not the same as it was in 1981."

Guantanamo Construction Budget Increased

FL2701142689 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Guantanamo Province has received an 80 million pesos budget to build new investments. In general they are trying to build and set up several works of economic interest, as well as for social benefit.

This year's budget is 40 percent larger than last year's budget. Its priorities are works that generate or save revenue. These projects include food production enterprises and establishments of social interest. In this sense they will make an effort to finish the furniture factory and the hand-tool factory.

Road work, on mountain roads such as the Via Mulata in particular, make up part of the construction effort that will be done in Guantanamo during 1989.

* Improvements in Train Service Described

32480060b Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 21 Dec 88 p 2

[Article by Claribel Terre Morell]

[Text] Every day 14 trains depart from the Central Railroad Station of Cuba for destinations all over the country.

Because of the shortage of spare parts for long-distance buses, the number of passengers using the railroad as a means of transportation is on the rise; this means that the railroads have to provide this service with greater efficiency and quality.

So far this year, more than 5 million passengers have been transported by the Western Division, to which this station belongs, and it is expected that the figure will exceed 6 million by the end of the year.

Mario Armada, chief of the Central Station, assessed the current quality of services and indicated that the itineraries and departure times are complied with nearly 92 percent of the time, and should improve even more.

"We have six national trains," he said, "four interdivisional ones, one divisional one, and three suburban trains. Beginning in January, six more trains will be put on to cover the route to Expo-Cuba. All of this means that we cannot neglect the work."

And it is attending the passengers' needs that appears to be the primary objective at this station, although that does not mean that there are no problems.

In recent times, since the remodeling in 1987, the quality of services has improved. The capacity to seat passengers has now increased to 540; the theft of luggage has declined and social discipline is greater now that the Railroad Police are on duty.

At the 4th Congress of the Transportation Trade Union, some of the statements had to do with the internal and external cleanliness of the train cars. At the Central Station, according to Armada, measures have been taken to guarantee this. At the same time, service on board the trains has improved, with an acceptable selection of foods and a basic effort to keep the air conditioning running in the Fiat cars.

The collective of workers consists of 288 employees, including the five travel agencies.

As of November this year, absenteeism was just 1.8 percent, even though more than 75 percent of the employees are women.

"We are very aware of the passengers' complaints; if we learn that some worker provided poor service, the disciplinary problem is analyzed and quick and effective measures are taken, depending on the case," stated Armada.

"To be sure," he went on, "in any job there are difficulties. Now, given the number of passengers who use our service, we need for the population to support us more. We have problems with travelers who do not arrive on time. Railroad security requires that passengers arrive 1 hour before departure time, and they are allowed into the station until 15 minutes before the train leaves. After that, they cannot be allowed in."

Until a short time ago, the majority of the passengers' complaints referred to problems they encountered getting last-minute tickets and reserved tickets, because they both have to be obtained at the same place. In the next few days a new agency will be opened up across from the Central Station to eliminate these problems.

The new agency will allow the traveler to obtain his ticket hours before departing.

Next year two new agencies, in addition to the existing ones, will be opened up in the capital, in Alamar and Guanabacoa, to make it more convenient to obtain tickets.

Despite the transportation crisis, the railroad is regarded by passengers today as one of the principal means of travel.

Antonio Leal (construction worker): "Service has improved a lot; you can depend on departing and arriving on time."

Georgina Duarte (teacher): "This is the second time I have traveled this way; I hope my trip will go as well as the first one did."

Simon Arteaga (retired): "Although this sounds like a lie, the Central Station looks just the way it did the first day after it was remodeled."

Work is seldom perfect when it comes to services. This is the general feeling at the Central Station, as not everything has been accomplished yet, but there is confidence that the railroad of the future may begin there.

*** Resolution on Worker Rehabilitation Detailed**
32480060a Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 29 Dec 88 p 10

[Text] Resolution 55-88 of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security (CETSS)

Whereas: The Labor Code states in its Article 189 that every worker to whom a disciplinary measure is applied, upon compliance with such measure, is rehabilitated after the completion of the term set forth by law in each case, as long as he does not commit any new violation of labor discipline during that period; and

Whereas: The rehabilitation of the worker expresses society's recognition and that of the collective where he works, of his proper labor conduct during the period subsequent to the events that gave rise to the application of a disciplinary measure, and also contributes to the strengthening of labor discipline, given that it is also an expression of the confidence that the revolution has in man and his capacity for rectification; and

Whereas: Pursuant to the provisions of Article 191 of the aforementioned legal instrument, it is necessary to establish the terms and conditions under which the worker's rehabilitation takes place, as well as the effects on the working life of the rehabilitated individual;

Therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the First Final Provision of the Labor Code,

I hereby resolve:

First: The management of the entities shall proceed to rehabilitate the workers to whom disciplinary measures have been applied, under the terms and conditions set forth herein, by removing from the personnel file the resolution, ruling, and any other document related to the aforementioned disciplinary measures.

Second: The rehabilitation applies to the workers who have been subject to disciplinary measures for the violations of labor discipline described in the Labor Code or in the disciplinary regulations. It also applies when the measures have been imposed pursuant to the following:

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- The repealed Law No. 1166 of 23 September 1964, if the affected workers were not rehabilitated at the time; and
- Decree Law No. 11 of 14 December 1977 and Decree Law No. 32 of 16 February 1980, both also repealed.

Third: The rehabilitation is declared by the authority that imposed the disciplinary measure or another representative of the management of the entity where the worker is employed, who is authorized to take such action ex officio, or at the request of the worker, or, as the case may be, of the trade union organization, on the grounds that since the date upon which the disciplinary measure was carried out, the terms set forth below for each case have elapsed: a) one year, in the case of private or public admonishment; b) two years, for the temporary transfer to another position of lesser pay or rank, or of different working conditions, for a term of up to 1 year, with the right to be reinstated in the former position; c) three years, for the transfer to another position with the loss of the worker's former position, and for the suspension of the employment relationship with the entity for a term of up to 30 days; d) four years, for the permanent separation from the entity, in this case running from the date of the worker's new employment.

Fourth: When the disciplinary measures have been imposed pursuant to the repealed Law No. 1166 of 23 September 1964, as well as Decree Law No. 11 of 14 December 1977 and Decree Law No. 32 of 16 February 1980, both also repealed, the terms for rehabilitation shall be the same as those set forth in the preceding paragraph, except in the case of measures that do not appear in current legislation, in which case the term for rehabilitation shall be 1 year.

Fifth: The terms for rehabilitation referred to in the preceding paragraphs are interrupted if the worker is subject to a new disciplinary measure. In this case, he may not qualify for rehabilitation until the term corresponding to the newly applied measure and the remainder of the term from the previous measure both elapse.

Sixth: The provisions of the preceding paragraphs notwithstanding, pursuant to Article 190 of the Labor Code, the representative of the labor entity's administration, in consultation with the trade union organization, may reduce the term for rehabilitation when the worker maintains exemplary conduct or is distinguished for meritorious attitude.

Seventh: After the rehabilitation has been declared, the representative of the administration calls in the worker involved and, in the presence of a representative of the trade union organization, informs him that he has been rehabilitated, in keeping with his proper labor conduct, and proceeds to remove from his personnel file the resolution, ruling, or any other document related to the disciplinary measure. Such documents shall not be used to establish a record for any purpose, nor does the fact of rehabilitation cancel or modify the effects of the disciplinary measures at the time they were applied.

Eighth: Railroad workers to whom disciplinary measures are or have been applied pursuant to the provisions of Decree Law No. 49 of 1981 shall be rehabilitated under the terms and conditions established by the Transportation Ministry, in consultation with the National Trade Union in that sector.

For this purpose, the Transportation Ministry, upon consulting with this State Committee, shall issue within 180 days of the effective date of this Resolution the regulations governing the rehabilitation of the aforementioned workers.

Ninth: Workers in educational and scientific-technical activities, for whom the law also provides the application of special measures when they engage in acts or conducts that are incompatible with their continued service in such positions, are rehabilitated when they fulfill the conditions established by the agencies that govern such activities, in consultation with the corresponding National Trade Union.

For this purpose, the governing agencies mentioned above, in consultation with this State Committee, shall issue within 180 days of the effective date of this Resolution the regulations governing the rehabilitation of the aforementioned workers in each case.

Tenth: The administrations of the entities, with the participation of the respective trade union organizations, shall review ex officio the personnel files of all workers who have been subject to labor sanctions, within 90 days of the effective date of this Resolution, and shall declare the rehabilitation of the workers who meet the requirements set forth herein.

Eleventh: The vice chairmen of this State Committee who are in charge of labor resources and labor legislation, respectively, are authorized to draft the regulations that are necessary to comply with the provisions set forth in this Resolution.

Twelfth: This Resolution shall take effect 60 days after this date.

Thirteenth: Be it published in the Official Gazette of the Republic for general knowledge.

Done in Havana this 27th day of December of 1988.

Francisco Linares Calvo Minister-Chairman State Committee for Labor and Social Security

*** Reduction in Job Injuries Reported**

32480062 [Editorial Report] The Havana Spanish-language newspaper TRABAJADORES of 17 December 1988 reports on page 12 that figures released by the State Committee for Labor and Social Security [CETSS] show a 7-percent decrease in on-the-job injuries, or 3,619 less accidents from January to November 1988. Fatalities dropped by 15.3 percent, or 44 fewer fatalities. There was also a 1-percent reduction in workdays lost. The most improved situations were found in 10 sectors of the national economy which used to be responsible for 89 percent of all accidents, but this is no longer the case.

Inter-Caribbean

Eastern Caribbean Finance Ministers Meet
FL2701214889 Bridgetown CANA in English 2125 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 27, CANA—Finance ministers of the Eastern Caribbean on Friday ended a one-day meeting here. The meeting of the Monetary Council of the East Caribbean [said] Prime Minister James Mitchell, focused mainly on a review of the report of the bank's governor.

Mitchell said the ministers also looked at how the ECCB was functioning in terms of meeting the requirements of member territories. He said that from the report presented everything is going quite well and that the fiscal situation of the region is healthy. "We have got a lot of liquidity into the banking system and we have quite a lot of resources and finances which we need for our development," he added.

Mitchell said that the meeting decided to "keep things on course" with the ECCB. He, however, declined comment on whether the rumored possibilty of a devaluation of the East Caribbean dollar was looked at.

St Lucia's Prime Minister John Compton and Grenada leader Herbert Blaize attended the meeting. It was the first major meeting attended by the 70-year old Blaize since receiving treatment last month a at U.S. Government hospital in Washington for an "abdominal disorder".

Dominican Republic

Abinader To Announce Presidential Candidacy
FL2701170189 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1023 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] The movements comprising the Dominican Revolutionary Party, PRD, have expressed their support for Dr Jose Rafael Abinader, who will proclaim his presidential candidacy for the 1990 elections within the next few days.

Abinader's candidacy may be announced on Sunday in New York where the political leader will travel. He will officially announce his presidential candidacy during the next PRD National Convention, which will be held within the next few weeks in accordance with the talks held by Francisco Pena Gomez and Jacobo Majluta.

It was reported that upon returning from New York, Dr Abinader will head a ceremony in which national leaders of his faction will participate in officially launching his nomination.

Abinader has welcomed the reunification between Pena Gomez and Majluta. He said that he was pleased that they reached an agreement on unity in the PRD. The politician also agreed that the convention should be held soon. Abinader said he would ask the two PRD leaders to participate in the commission that will be responsible for organizing the convention events.

Grenada

Blaize Appoints Jones Deputy Prime Minister
FL2801171189 Bridgetown CANA in English 1609 GMT 28 Jan 89

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 28, CANA—Grenada Prime Minister, Herbert Blaize, on Friday night announced the appointment of external affairs minister, Ben Jones, as his deputy.

Blaize told the nation in his weekly radio broadcast that Jones' elevation to the number two post is intended to give greater effectiveness to the operations of government. He said that Jones would now have the authority to generally oversee the operations of all government ministries and assist him in coordinating development projects.

It was the first major government change announced by Blaize since he lost the post of political leader of the ruling New National Party (NNP) at last weekend's convention to Public Utilities Minister Dr Keith Mitchell.

Jones, the deputy political leader of the NNP, usually acts as prime minister when Blaize is out of the country.

The Grenadian leader also dealt with reports that he would reshuffle the Cabinet because of his defeat at the party's convention. He said that despite being urged by several persons to reshuffle the eight-member Cabinet and to re-allocate responsibilities he was not one to rush into action.

NNP insiders have told CANA that Blaize's allies have approached him to strip Mitchell of portfolios except communications and works. Sources close to the prime

minister have quoted him as saying that he did not favour touching Mitchell's portfolios at this time since it would appear that he was retaliating for his defeat.

Mitchell, who has been calling for an increasing role for the party in government affairs, also holds responsibilities for community development, women's affairs, and civil aviation.

Blaize for the first time publicly addressed his unseating from the NNP political leadership post. He brushed aside the defeat as merely a decision of the party to separate the offices and functions of prime minister from those of political leader.

"As such, therefore, the roles of those two offices are separate and distinct," Blaize said.

Three years ago, when then Labour Minister Dr Francis Alexis was voted in as NNP deputy political leader Blaize said that he would not appoint him to the deputy prime ministership since the Grenada Constitution fails to makle provisions for such a post.

Left-Wing Leader Cited on Bush Policy Options

FL2701215689 Bridgetown CANA in English 2147 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 27, CANA—Leader of the leftwing Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) in Grenada, Terry Marryshow, has urged new U.S. President, George Bush, to take steps to help Latin America deal with its massive debts.

"If they (the U.S.) don't do anything about it in the near future the consequences are going to be terrible", he remarked.

Marryshow, a Cuban-trained doctor, said that he plans to listen "concretely" to Bush whenever he outlines Washington's policies on Latin America and the Caribbean. Marryshow told CANA that his party is taking the new U.S. leader seriously when he said that he would like to see "a much gentler and kinder America". He described this as a "very pragmatic statement by Bush," particularly at a time when the U.S. really needs "to change its face in Latin America and the Caribbean."

He called on the Bush administration to ensure that peace prevailed in Latin America.

Haiti

Government Delegation Visits Central Plateau

FL2701202889 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Report by Mirebalais correspondent (Etienne Eliezere)]

[Excerpt] On Tuesday 24 January, 1989, a delegation visited the town of Mirebalais in the name of the head of the military government, General Prosper Avril. The delegation was made up of: Mr (Jodesty), a Haitian Armed Forces colonel; Mr (Morance) from the Justice Ministry; Mr (Bellerive) from the Interior Ministry; Mr Bertrand from the Ministry of Agriculture; and Mr Pierre Joseph from the Ministry of Social Affairs.

The delegation contacted several prominent Mirebalais citizens to find out what problems existed in the town of Mirebalais and what solutions these problems required. We noticed that the members of the delegation took notes during all meetings. They would tell each person they met to speak out without fear, for it was the president himself who had sent them out with the mission of finding out about all the problems the population was encountering (?so that things could be improved).

They listened to the complaints of (?private citizens, seeking to find out) how they lived and what problems they were encountering. They also took a look at the government administrations, such as how the school is working, (?and what things can be improved). In this connection, they met with the director, the teachers, parents, and students, (?meeting with them individually). They also met with other public sectors, such as city hall and so forth.

The delegation then went off to Savannette. The delegation was to also visit Las Cahobas, Belladere, Thomonde, Hinche, and so forth. The delegation said it was to (?visit) the entire central plateau between Tuesday and Friday. They said they were satisfied with their visit to Mirebalais. [passage omitted]

Antigovernment Demonstration Held in Gonaives

FL2701212089 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] There is an antigovernment demonstration going on in Gonaives today, Friday, 27 January. Early this morning our correspondent in Gonaives, Fegerson Legros, informed us that there were burning tires in the streets and antigovernment slogans on the walls in town. At around 1000, a demonstration started. The demonstrators were chanting anti-Avril slogans and protesting the anticontraband measures adopted recently by the government. Here is Fegerson Legros' report.

[Legros, speaking Creole—live or recorded] As we announced this morning, there were some tires burning in several parts of town, creating much smoke. Shortly afterwards, area residents told us that some policemen had gone to the areas to investigate the cause of the smoke. Then, at around 1000 this morning, things changed (?abruptly). The people themselves decided to take to the streets. They took to the streets, crying "Down with, down with, down with Avril. You have done (?too much) for the short time you have been in power. It is now time for you to flee."

There was much talking and babbling; and the people said that the government could just forget about the business of ships leaving Gonaives to go and unload in Cap-Haitien or Port-au-Prince.

When we talked to the people, we told them that according to the government communique, it was [only] vehicles and mechanical equipment that the government said could not be unloaded in Gonaives. However, they said that as far as they were concerned, the government had made an arbitrary decision; and that this decision was not in their interests. They said that as far as they were concerned, the government had ordered the port of Gonaives shut down. [passage omitted]

Further on Demonstration

FL3001142689 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Excerpts] It is 1234 and 10 seconds. Back to Gonaives. [passage omitted] The demonstrators are currently massed in front of the customs office in Gonaives. The director general of customs has reportedly proposed a compromise to them. Here is Fegerson Legros:

[Legros, in Creole—live or recorded] [Passage omitted] At 1045, the police had to take to the streets to control the situation. Schools ended up sending all their students home, because parents put a lot of pressure on them.

The group of demonstrators, chased by the police, massed in front of the Gonaives customs offices and protested a number of things vigorously. There, they ran into the director general of customs, Edouard Dupont, who was on a visit to Gonaives, where he had met with Gonaives customs director (Price Chaperond), the owners of several boats (?in port in Gonaives), and the commanding officer of the military department.

Mr Dupont had a long meeting with these people.

For its part, the population massed in front of the customs offices was as irascible as a moray eel and was awaiting the director general's final decision.

The director said the vessels could unload all the merchandise they were carrying—but as regards vehicles, once the vessels had unloaded the other merchandise, they were to take the vehicles to the port of Cap-Haitien. The population, which was as aggressive as a moray eel, declared that this could not be allowed, for Gonaives was as much a port as Cap-Haitien. The population did a lot of babbling.

The director told the demonstrators that there were many customs projects being studied and that there was a project for Gonaives, from which Gonaives would soon benefit; there was already a group of technicians on site for the Saint-Marc project. [passage omitted]

The director, accompanied by the many other people who were with him, was then able to make his way through the group of demonstrators.

Finally, the population, for its part, declared that the reason no one forced the vessel "Khian Sea," which has now changed its name, to come gather up the toxic waste it dumped on the Sedren wharf in Gonaives is because the "Khian Sea" does not look like trash—whereas (?the government) was out to trample them in connection with this matter of ships coming into port in Gonaives so that they themselves could obtain a nice chunk of the pie.

And there is a lot of talking going on. The words are striking. They also say that if the government prevents the port of Gonaives from functioning properly and receiving everything that it has a right to receive, the Artibonite Valley will be cut in two, and they will set fire to Gonaives.

This is Fegerson Legros from Gonaives for Radio Metropole.

PCC Visitors To Meet Party, Government Leaders

FL3001154989 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The fact-finding and courtesy visit of two delegates of the Cuban Communist Party to Port-au-Prince at the invitation of the PUCH [Unified Party of Haitian Communists] continues. [passage omitted]

The two delegates, the first members of the PCC to come to Haiti since Fidel Castro came to power, are Omar Cordoba Rivas, who is in charge of Caribbean and Central American [affairs] in the America Department of the Cuban Communist Party, and Manuel Jesus Meredina, who is in charge of Haitian [affairs]. The Cubans will meet with Haiti's principal political and union leaders and they will also be received by Minister of Information and Coordination Anthony Virginie Saint-Pierre, who is the interim foreign minister.

Priest Discusses Unity, Division, Aristide Case

FL2701192889 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Last Sunday, 22 January, a week of unity among all Christians began worldwide. Father (Rebecca Valery) [name as heard], who works in the southern diocese, thinks that the week of prayer for the unity of Christians is very important. It is a time for Christians to do a great deal of thinking. He thinks Christians have a role to play in Haiti today, and that division must not cause them to fail in their mission.

[Begin recording] [Father (Valery)] When you talk about the problems of hunger, health, the social problems that people have where they are living, you feel that everyone

could all sit down to the same table to discuss these problems. However, the minute religion enters the picture, talk is no longer possible. [passage including reporter's question omitted]

Unity among Christians does not mean asking Catholics to become Baptists, Baptists to become Pentecostals, and so forth. [passage omitted]

In the same way, all those serving God must become one, with each individual maintaining his own identity, his own dignity, or whatever—without his having to become a different person. [passage omitted including reporter's question]

Yes, unity is lacking in many religions. We must become aware of this. You can feel this, even on the level of language. You might hear a pastor or a member of a given religion giving the message and not giving it the same way as someone else. Since we are living in Haiti, let's say it clearly: There are people who give the message and you feel that they are to this day defending macoute interests. There are others who give the message and you feel that they are defending the interests of Jesus Christ, of the poor, of the little people. So how can you expect, today, a man preaching a message of liberation [liberasyon] to be able to reach an understanding with another man, who is preaching domination?

[Reporter] Do you think there is division within the Catholic Church today?

[Father (Valery)] I think that anyone with half a brain is aware that the situation within the Catholic Church is serious. It is serious. The Church is very, very divided. According to what I have heard, there is currently division between priests and the faithful, and between priest and priest. I mean, there is no way one can hide one's navel while taking a bath. This division is due to a lack of trust that exists within the church. Let's take a very recent case. I don't think there is anyone in the Church who does not feel it. I think everyone feels it. It is the (?blow) we just took in connection with the Father Aristide matter. This is an example. This is serious—when a priest is accused, when people say he preaches violence, when he is accused of being a leader of the people's church and many other things—whereas this is not true. This is not true.

I know Father Aristide well. We have often sat down and talked together. I think that if today someone is accusing him of being a violent person, of preaching [word indistinct] one person to kill another, as a leader of the popular church—if you accuse him, there are many others whom you should also accuse. And if you boot him out, there are many others you should boot out too. If he is guilty, then many of us are guilty. And since he is not guilty, we can still defend him. If he is today no longer a Salesian—for they have put him in a rather strange position—I think that we must insist. Things must change. They must reconsider his case. They must study his case. [end recording]

Organization Salutes Father Aristide

FL2701193389 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] On the occasion of the upcoming festival of Saint Jean Bosco next week, Solidarity With a View to a Small Haitian Peasant Farmers Movement [Tet Kole Pou Youn Mouvman Ti Peyizan Ayisyen] says it salutes Father Jean Bertrand Aristide as the spiritual heir of Saint Jean Bosco.

Solidarity's note adds: Were it not for Father Aristide, both the poor in town and the peasants in rural areas would never be able to understand the meaning and the importance of Saint Jean Bosco's message for all Christians on earth. And it is this same message that Father Aristide has always given us peasants—be it at a time when we are being trampled by the big landowners, such as in (?Gros Sable and) Jean-Rabel; during big peasant assemblies, such as in Papaye, Pont Sonde, Leogane, Croix des Bouquets, and so forth; or when Father Aristide is helping us find a better life in town, as in Life Lies in the Family [Nan Fanmi Se La Vi, an organization].

Solidarity asks for all good Christians and all committed patriots to mobilize at length so that truth can triumph over lies. Christians, regardless of their religion, should never forget Father Aristide in their prayers, so that the grace of the Lord may descend upon our prophet.

Those were the words of Solidarity With a View to a Movement of Small Haitian Peasant Farmers on the occasion of the upcoming festival of Saint Jean Bosco, which is next week.

Aristide Affair Discussed at News Conference

FL3001144489 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Within the framework of the week of Christian unity, committed laymen and members of the clergy invite believers and nonbelievers to join together with them on the basis of the popular demands.

We want unity in the church, and we will fight to see it achieved. That is what five representatives of the laymen and members of the clergy of the country's eight dioceses said this Thursday [26 January] during a news conference on the occasion of unity week, 22-29 January. However—they explain—this unity must revolve around the poor and their demands. They emphasize: We invite all believers and nonbelievers, Protestants, Catholics, practitioners of voodoo, and others to join us with, as a foundation, popular demands such as that the macoutes be arrested and brought to trial, that macoute section chiefs be fired, that the Creole pigs be brought back, that

rightful owners be given back the lands stolen from them by the macoutes, that the toxic waste be removed from Gonaives, that the prices of products of prime necessity be lowered, that basic social services be provided, and that [an end be put to] insecurity.

[Begin first unidentified speaker recording, in Creole] Well, no! On the contrary, the popular church is seeking unity within the church. However, there is something that should be made clear. Unity is important, indispensable, but (?this unity should be created in all spheres). There is something that is clear in the Gospel and clear in the popular church today: This unity must revolve around the poor. It is the poor who must be the pillar around which this unity is built. You may be sure that any unity that does not revolve around the poor is a false unity, a unity not in keeping with the Gospel. [end recording]

Furthermore, these representatives expressed their solidarity with Father Jean Bertrand Aristide—active solidarity, thanks to numerous petitions being circulated by the Papaye Peasants Movement, MPP; by members of the clergy; by socioprofessional organizations; and by the youth of Saint Jean Bosco. More than 30,000 people have already signed these petitions.

These petitions will also be sent abroad in order to make the other Christian communities aware of Father Aristide's problems. These five spokesmen said that a campaign of disinformation in connection with the Aristide affair is currently being carried out by the Haitian Embassy in Paris and the apostolic nuncio in the United States of America.

[Begin second unidentified speaker recording, in Creole] There are many bizarre reports circulating in Haiti and also abroad. For example, there are many people in Haiti who think that Titide [affectionate nickname for Father Aristide] is not even in the country. Some have even come and told me that Titide died. This week, a journalist came from Europe (?to try to interview) Titide so he could go back and prove that Titide was not dead—because over there, especially in France, they are circulating the rumor that Titide died back on 11 September, during the Saint Jean Bosco thing. And the Haitian Embassy in Paris is saying that what happened is that a fire broke out at Saint Jean Bosco Church, and that this fire was started by a short circuit, and that yes, it is true that Titide died in the fire. [end recording]

These people stressed that the Church should remain faithful to the commitments it has made in favor of the poor, and as a sign of solidarity with the poor. (?Nevertheless), they acknowledged that there are big gulfs separating sectors within the Church, gulfs that are the result of the social inequalities, with the Catholic hierarchy taking the side of the rich and the supporters of the government, while the grassroots church is working in favor of the poor.

Finally, there will be a mass of solidarity with Father Aristide next 31 January at 1600 at the Salesian Fathers' Saint Jean Bosco Church on the Grande Rue [also known as Boulevard Jean-Jacques Dessalines].

Port-de-Paix Teachers Strike, Demand Salaries

FL2701202589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The teachers of the vocational school in Port-de-Paix are still on strike, demanding to be paid their salaries, which they have not received since October. They are paid by the INFP, which is the National Vocational Training Institute. This school was visited yesterday by the Canadian ambassador in Port-au-Prince. The Canadian organization (Agdi) financed the construction of this school. Here is our Port-de-Paix correspondent.

[Correspondent Jean Wilson—live or recorded] The teachers of the National Technical and Vocational School of Port-de-Paix are still on strike. They went on strike on Friday 20 January, 1989, because they have never been paid a cent since they began work in October. Their salaries are supposed to be paid by the National Vocational Training Institute in Port-au-Prince, which has to this day never as yet said a single word about this matter with a view to unblocking the situation. [passage omitted]

Students Discuss Organization, Solidarity

FL3001151389 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] On Sunday 22 January, students from various schools in the capital met in a big assembly at which they discussed different aspects of the educational system and diverse problems they are encountering in their schools. After this meeting the students decided to organize, to set up class committees and central committees in the schools. They also said they had to undertake a series of cultural activities that would permit them to develop good relations with one another so that they will be able to stand their ground against all directors and teachers who are against their development, as well as against the Ministry of National Education, which is the pillar of the old educational system—which must change, here in Haiti.

They conclude their press release by saying that the problem of one student is the problem of all students, and that they must be able to get together and be united with one another.

Peasant Group Formed; Teachers Denounce Ministry

FL2501192489 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] There is a brand new peasants movement in southeastern Haiti. Our correspondent is going to tell us about it.

[Correspondent Jacques Jean-Pierre—live or recorded] (?Fifteen) peasants groups from different parts of the southeast met with several members of Konakom [National Committee of the Congress of Democratic Movements] on Sunday 22 January. At this meeting, the peasants did not fail to talk at length about the problems they have in their areas—such as the bad treatment they are getting from the section chiefs, the heavy-handed acts committed against them by bigshots, and diverse other problems.

The Konakom members present at the meeting made the peasants see clearly that it is through proper organization and solidarity that the peasants will be able to find solutions to their problems.

After a good long talk, the peasants formed an organization, MOPES, which stands for Movement of Peasants of the Southeast [Mouvman Peyizan Sides]. According to what was said, MOPES is to be united with all other peasants in Haiti with a view to improving the peasants lot.

Also, a press release issued by the Jacmel Teachers' Association says: The Jacmel Teachers' Association most vigorously protests the Education Ministry's arbitrary decision to not receive the delegation from the National Confederation of Haitian Instructors [CNEH] in connection with the Mirebalais school affair. We wish to inform the Education Ministry bigshots that the CNEH does not represent just the teachers in Mirebalais, but rather teachers from the four corners of Haiti, and that the problem of one teacher is the problem of the other teachers. When one is punched in the nose, his eyes water.

If we are to help our country out of the abyss it is in, we of the Jacmel Teachers' Association do not think that a small, privileged group should be sitting behind an office in Port-au-Prince dictating its will to us. In order to avoid losing our temper, we are asking the bigshots at the head of the Ministry of Education to quickly rescind this decision. We also seize this opportunity to ask them to return to us, this month, the money they took from us (?for no reason at all) in October [an allusion to unexpected and unexplained salary cuts in teachers salaries that occurred recently].

That was a press release from the members of the Jacmel Teachers' Association.

This is Jacques Jean-Pierre, Radio Soleil, Jacmel.

Peasant Leader To Receive Award in Paris

FL2701211189 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Here in Haiti, Chavannes Jean-Baptiste of the Papaye Peasants Movement [MPP] has been awarded the first France-Liberte human rights prize awarded by the Danielle Mitterrand Foundation. Chavannes Jean-Baptiste is to be presented with this award in Paris next 16 February by Mrs Danielle Mitterrand, wife of French President Mitterrand. We asked the MPP's Chavannes Jean-Baptiste for his impressions.

[Jean-Baptiste, in Creole—live by phone or recorded] It was a surprise. I can't say any more about it yet, because I don't know [laughs] what this means, what this represents—why, and so forth. In any case, according to information I received yesterday, I am supposed to go to France, where there is going to be a big ceremony at which I will be given this award—for it seems there were candidates from some 60 countries and it was I who was chosen to receive the award. So, I can say that it is an honor.

I consider it not a personal honor but an honor for the peasants struggle, for the struggle of the poor; but I really can't say any more about it, because I don't know what this represents.

All I know is that I am to be in Paris on 16 February to receive the award; and when I get back, I will hold a press conference as soon as I reach Haiti. [passage omitted]

Shooting Incident Occurs During Drivers' Strike

FL2501204989 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Excerpts] At the request of the Cabaret drivers union, the drivers operating on the north road out of Port-au-Prince went on strike yesterday to demand that the authorities repair the bridge over the Bretelle River. The strike was totally adhered to, as far as public transportation vehicles go, in the Cabaret and Arcahaie area. Schools and the communal marketplaces were paralyzed yesterday.

There was an incident. A group of individuals dressed in olive green who were on a bus that had come from Cap-Haitien opened fire on a house in the Manegue area because of a burning barricade that was on the road. Our correspondent will give us details. He will also tell us about the work that has begun on the Bretelle bridge.

[Begin correspondent Jean Joseph Sanon recording] [Passage omitted] At 0745 this morning, a bus from Saint-Marc managed to load up with people near the marketplace in Cabaret. A group of people stood in the road and forced the driver to go back to Saint-Marc.

The drivers of most private vehicles did not respect this strike—as if the destroyed bridge did not also affect their cars! [passage omitted]

What was not too clear about this strike was an incident that occurred this morning at around 0300, when a bus from Cap-Haitien arrived at the Manegue bridge on its way to Port-au-Prince. Upon reaching this bridge, the

driver had to stop because he saw a barricade. Several people got out of the bus and began shooting at the house of (Maxo Pierre), who lives very near the bridge. The door was split in two.

These men, who it seems were dressed in olive green, set fire to a bower that was in front of the house. Meanwhile, several of them threw rocks at the house and fired at it with Uzis.

When the proprietor saw this, he ran away into a field of banana plants; and when his wife came out, accompanied by three children, the people shooting asked her where her husband was. She told them he had gone to work. They told her: (?He's) lucky.

According to the reports we have, after this happened, these men made a statement at the barracks in Cabaret. But what did they tell the commanding officer? We contacted him in this connection and he told us that he was not on the premises at the time they made their statements, and the corporal on duty at that time was not available.

According to the commander, it seems the driver of the bus from Cap-Haitien said that (?they were firing at) the people who set up the barricade.

Can you tell us, commander, exactly what vehicle? [sentence as heard]

The commander answered that there was only one bus from Cap-Haitien. (?That was all he said, in answer.)

In any case, the victims are demanding justice, and reparations for their old house, which has been trashed.

This is Jean Joseph Sanon, Radio Soleil, Cabaret. [end reporting]

Our correspondent in Cap-Haitien has informed us that this strike was partially observed in Cap-Haitien.

Union Organization Denies CATH Accusation

FL3001152889 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The CATH-CLAT [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers affiliated with the Latin American Central Organization of Workers] is defending itself against the accusation by CATH [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers] that it was involved in the Jean-Rabel massacre. The CATH-CLAT, in turn, accused the Jean-Rabel missionaries.

At a news conference held at CATH-CLAT headquarters yesterday morning [26 January], the National Federation of Haitian Agricultural Workers [Federasyon Nasyonal Travaye Agrikol Ayisyen], FENATAPA, denied the statements by CATH officials over the radio last week on the occasion of the general strike of warning to the effect that CATH-CLAT had, through FENATAPA, participated in the massacre of peasants that occurred in Jean-Rabel.

FENATAPA President (Anilus Laraque) said he was not even in Haiti at the time of the massacre—whereas the CATH leaders said he was at the side of (Nicole Poitevien) on television after the massacre, saying that they had killed 1,000 communists.

FENATAPA, supported by CATH-CLAT, announces that if CATH Executive Secretary Jean Auguste Mesyeux does not publicly retract this statement, they will haul him into court. [passage omitted]

ANOP News Conference Calls for Assembly

FL3001145789 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The ANOP, the National Alliance of People's Organizations, has called for an assembly against the high cost of living and abuses by rural section chiefs. An assembly to discuss these problems is scheduled for next Sunday at KID [Confederation for Democratic Unity] headquarters.

[Second announcer] Mobilization against the rise in the cost of living and the barbaric acts committed against peasants by section chiefs; mobilization against the macoutes [words indistinct] of the news conference held Thursday [26 January] by the ANOP. The ANOP also again denounced the arrest of ANOP members last week, despite the military government's promises of democracy.

[Begin first unidentified speaker recording] [Passage omitted] What the police said to us didn't have a thing to do with democracy! [passage omitted] So, as far as we are concerned, this talk of democracy is just talk, aimed at lulling the masses. [end recording]

The watchword to mobilize will be withdrawn when feasible administrative structures which work to the benefit of the people being administrated are set in place. The holders of the news conference also explained the call to refuse to pay taxes throughout Haiti.

[Begin second unidentified speaker recording] [Passage omitted] They said they were going to form a committee within the Ministry of Commerce to lower the cost of living. But we have never to this day heard any more about it. This is a phantom committee, a nonexistent committee, just like the investigating committees that the government is always forming all over the place. [passage omitted]

Also, when we talk about not paying taxes in Port-au-Prince, we think we will always ask that people not pay taxes, because the services that the government provides in Port-au-Prince are worthless. In fact, most of the time they do not even exist. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

PUCH Denies Anti-Section Chief Campaign

FL2701192089 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Text] Many peasants have been rising up and complaining about all the [communal] section chiefs for some time now. We are getting letters of protest from almost all rural sections in Haiti denouncing the way the section chiefs are mistreating peasants in the different areas. The peasants ask that the section chiefs resign.

It isn't that we consider the section chiefs innocent, never doing anything wrong—but the protest movement is pretty general. Notes protesting the section chiefs are coming in from all over Haiti.

While we seek the political causes of this, certain observers say that the Unified Party of Haitian Communists, PUCH, is allegedly involved in this campaign to denigrate the section chiefs—so that it can indoctrinate the peasants in order to get the peasants to understand the communist movement in the rural sections.

Questioned in connection with this accusation, Mr Max Bourjolly rejected outright the idea of PUCH involvement in this campaign to denigrate the section chiefs, this campaign asking that they be replaced. We will have you listen to Mr Max Bourjolly in a brief interview he granted us:

[Begin Bourjolly recording] That people in the PUCH want to replace the section chiefs? (?Which means they want) to take their place? Well, if this were to happen, it would be a good thing for Haiti.

However, we have no desire to go take people's places. That is not how we see the matter. That is not how we do politics.

The only thing that we (?have noted) is that the Haitian Government has said that the Haitian people are to elect the section chiefs. And once the people has chosen a section chief, the government then incorporates him into the Army. Thus, he becomes a sheriff, as in the United States. This is the American plan. Haitians reason in American. Thus, they have taken the American plan and brought it here to implement in Haiti.

However, at the same time, we also realize that there is... [changes thought] When we (?examine) the manifesto of the Haitian Party of Popular Accord [Parti d'Entente Populaire d'Haiti, PEP], which was written by Jacques Stephen Alexis and other valiant patriots in 1959—in October of 1959, 17 October, which appeared on 17 October 1959—we find that in one of the Haitian Army reforms provided for, the Haitian people were supposed to appoint the section chiefs.

Thus, this means... [changes thought] I don't know if, [rephrases] perhaps, maybe the people who are in power today did a little reading in their youth. Maybe they read the PEP's manifesto. If they did, we think this is very nice. This would allow us to harbor other hopes.

However, we don't really think this is what happened. We tend to think that it is the American vision that—how could I put it?—is swimming around in their heads. They function according to this vision.

Now, we ourselves don't have any quarrel with the Haitian people. We have nothing against the Haitian people. On the contrary, it is at the side of the people that we (?have been) struggling. Therefore, if the people choose us—if they go and ask the people to choose the section chief and the people choose a communist—great! This is great for the peasants in the rural areas, great for all Haiti, great for you journalists who (?get beaten when you go out after news) in the rural areas.

In fact, this is something we (?should even) hope for. We would absolutely love to see something like this happen. However, for the time being, this is not our orientation. We didn't have in our heads the idea of doing this—the idea of ousting the section chiefs in order to take their places. [end recording]

MOP Members Ask Executive Committee To Resign

FL2701203489 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] Some 100 citizens in Kenscoff who claim to be members of the MOP [Movement for the Organization of the Country] demanded, yesterday in a press release, the resignation of the Workers and Peasants Movement's [the former name of the MOP, later changed to Movement for the Organization of the Country] executive committee: president, vice-president, and all other high-ranking party officials.

Before reaching that decision, these citizens considered many matters. They pointed out the differences between Daniel Fignole [founder of the Workers and Peasants Movement, later Movement for the Organization of the Country] and agronomist Gerard Philippe Auguste [current and disputed head of the MOP]—says their note. After discussing Auguste's participation in the 17 January elections and in the government of Leslie Francois Manigat, they stated that Auguste never took a position on the [criminal] acts that were being committed by bandits against the peasants back then—in (Danty), Labadie, and so forth.

Further on, these citizens, who say they are members of the MOP, ask a long series of questions: Does the MOP belong to a small group of people? Shouldn't the MOP

take a stand in favor of the Haitian people, like Daniel Fignole would have done? Does the MOP think it can win power without respecting an entire series of principles contained in the party statutes?

Finally, they simply demand the resignation of the party's executive committee in order to encourage the holding of a congress at which all MOP members will have the right to speak, which will permit a new executive committee to be elected.

Provincial Committee 'Indignant' Over Forum

FL2701194089 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] The Committee for the Defense of the Commune of Pointe a Raquette [Komite Defans Komin Pointe a Raquette, CDCP], in southeastern Haiti, says that it is indignant over General Prosper Avril's decision to hold a forum to create a CEDHA [Electoral College of Haiti] to organize elections in Haiti, while—the committee points out—criminal acts continue to be committed all over Haiti. Also, General Avril decided to protect Franck Romain, who everyone denounced as a big criminal who participated in a number of criminal acts in Haiti.

The CDCP also talks about the wave of repression against peasants that is continuing in the rural sections and in the hills. It also talks about the great problem of the high cost of living.

The CDCP asks what the purpose of such a forum is if the government can't take the measures necessary to take to court all the murderers who participated in the massacres of 29 November 1987 and 11 September 1988.

The CDCP feels that there can be no forum to discuss elections until the government has done what needs to be done to give the popular masses a breather and to allow them to obtain some results in the demands that they have been making for a long time in Haiti.

President Discusses Arrest of Labor Leaders

PA2901212389 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 23 Jan 89 pp 1-A, 10-A, 11-A

["Part I" of report by Regino Diaz Redondo on his interview with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari at the presidential office on 20 January; quotation marks as published]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who has been in office less than 2 months, has told EXCELSIOR: "The process against former oil labor leaders scrupulously adheres to the law, and nothing is above the law." The process began because of reports of illegal actions the attorney general had to investigate" and started during the previous administration, when the former national defense secretary told the persons who have been charged to "register the weapons that were known to be in their possession."

"Nothing in Mexico is done with impunity," he said emphatically.

He adds: "The Army scrupulously fulfilled its duty in strict abidance with the law."

Impeccably dressed, Salinas knows how to handle a situation.

In a pleasant atmosphere, but without abandoning the austere attitude, he asserted:

"Changes do not only occur, you have to make them occur."

He asserted that the Army complied with the attorney general's request in strict abidance with the law.

The president asserted: "Yes, some people were breaking the law..." and the citizens were deeply concerned "about this and about the latest events. So many weapons, so much money, so much power, and so many activities were being controlled by those people. They lived in such an unstable and disorderly way. This, of course, was why the government had to act."

What about the president's irritation?

Salinas de Gortari immediately stated, with the calmness that characterized him throughout the conversation: "The president of Mexico can never act with irritation, only with reason and in strict abidance with the law, without rancor."

The heartfelt words flowed easily from the president's thin lips while his face hardened.

He sat on a comfortable black chair; he was similarly dressed in black. It was a splendid morning. The presidential office was comfortable and roomy, everything in place. The sun shone through the curtains. The man was happy and the dialogue was fluid and direct. Sometimes—almost never, perhaps once or twice—the president weighed his words or his answers, which were short and to the point.

The rest of the time his words flowed like an abundant river. Imagination and affability became one and created a favorable atmosphere. One felt comfortable there, facing a serene man.

There have been no serious labor problems this week; no one has risen to the post of governor; and no advisory positions have been granted to others; there is not even a report about the dismissed magistrates and those who could be dismissed.

There was a topic we skillfully brought up.... "The expression corporatism has been used too much; one cannot possibly talk about that. Social changes themselves have established the guidelines for organization and leadership."

There was more on the same topic: "Political modernization reflects the changes that have taken place...and those we want to take place (he said this phrase with determination, but he seemed to raise his voice). That modernization phase is up to the workers, because I respect labor organizations very much."

Salinas continued: Our "system is not static. Changes do not simply occur; we must make them occur."

Talking about whether or not we have lived in a system of corporatism, he quickly emphasized: "We have lived within a political and social system that allows the sectors to state their views and defend and develop their legitimate interests and demands."

[Diaz] What about the leaders' importance?

[Salinas] The social organizations of the workers, businessmen, peasant, popular groups, and media are necessary to strengthen a civilian society. A social organization faces the risk of becoming weak, which is why the members of those organizations must decide whether or not their representatives continue to meet their demands.

Back to the Army, because this is an interesting topic: Here is where the president abounds in seriousness, respect, attention, and specific expressions:

"Article 7, Section II of the Attorney General's Law justifies the request for the Army's support to avoid bloody situations, and results prove the goal was achieved. It was necessary to guarantee the safety of our citizens and the country's strategic facilities."

"We would have failed to fulfill our pledges if we had not acted this way."

His personal safety was a thorny issue:

[Diaz] Mr President, you are—one way or another—in some people's sights. Are you not afraid of reprisals?

[Salinas] "I like to walk among the people. I intend to continue living among the Mexicans, as close as they have allowed me to. I want to feel their warmth and listen to them...they talk so clearly. It is necessary to hear their views."

[Diaz] And when you are no longer a head of state?

[Salinas] I will continue to walk among them.

Quite a contrast: President Carlos Salinas de Gortari perfectly combines joviality—he is 40 years old—a pleasant manner, and a passion for his responsibility with the stern, astute, intelligent, institutional (and how!), analytical, reserved, concise, and sometimes brusque tone of his role as president. He is a man of contrasts; his feet are firmly planted on the ground and his brain knows everything he must do. The look in his eyes clearly tells us he has decided to open more and more roads. His eyes never rest, even though he may be smiling or serious; his eyes always follow what is happening around him. The look in his eyes impresses, sometimes scares, people; but others like that look. It is, essentially, the basis of his personality.

This is a man who has been president 51 days—the interview took place on 20 January—yet he has clear ideas, a quick mind, and good health in a body that may not seem too consistent in appearance but actually is. He is convinced, I believe, that he will fight crime even though this might, in a remote case, not allow him to conclude his term.

His brain functions like a computer; the people who work for him are almost the same. When I entered he was seated—as I had expected—at his desk in Los Pinos, the beautiful office in Miguel Aleman's residence—because the Lazaro Cardenas residence is being refurbished.

Is he a serious man? Certainly, no doubt about it. Is he aware of what he is and what he is doing? Naturally! (We must not confuse flattery with an evident and verifiable reality.) Firm? He is firm; perhaps, sometimes, he exceeds that qualifier and becomes—barely noticeably—excessively firm, but in a calculated way. This president, this young and mature president, has virtues we have begun to notice. At least we notice this, but perhaps it will be necessary to watch the future. His caution and quick mind during the interview denote a man who struggled a lot and legitimately won the Presidency. Also—I would assert this without doubt—he attained his goal through a discipline he does not accept directly, and which he disregards when asserting that he is not an "implacable" man, only a "persevering" man.

Salinas, why Salinas?...many asked, including me. "Because he is the best man, the former president answered. Salinas? Why Salinas? I would ask now.

The answer, although not easy, could be:

Salinas—this is not just rhetoric—did not waste a single moment in his duties: He was a good state secretary—implacable, I say so myself. He was ambitious—a just ambition, an ambition that everyone must have without breaking the law—because he wanted to be president.

Salinas never said this, but he proved it daily during the last 5 years in the previous administration. He is a man who made many friends and foes. He surrounded himself with key people, and he was direct and humble. He was trustworthy (I do not think that is the right adjective, but it will have to do while I find another one) to the president of the Republic (Miguel de la Madrid), and he always—once more I insist, even though this might be criticized by those who have little imagination—took sides with and defended his former boss. I can vouch for that.

Was he strict? He must have had his reasons. Was he disliked by a few or by many? It would have been because he demanded efficiency and good results. Did he not deny, or announce, that he wanted to become president? True, that is absolutely true. Did he avail himself of his apparent vulnerability to slip through and join those who had better chances? Yes, of course, but this is not a defect; it is a virtue. He did it, of course he did it, but with order and discipline.

Did he become president given the circumstances [coyuntura]? What circumstances? He is, basically, a decisionmaking president. The previous president—a man who was insulted but was nevertheless sure of his place in history—suffered enough for this one to become a president under these circumstances.

This is a president who is primarily responsible for defending the system without breaking the law. In fact, he cannot break the law. This president truly needs to change the system, not the government (I think). This president—I hope I am not wrong—wants to do it, and he deserves respect for his work even though we must continue to observe him. Criticism about his work—about what he did and what he failed to do—can come later; yet I believe we must sincerely recognize that we have attained progress so far. We have attained some progress—perhaps only a little bit, but it is important nevertheless. Can we criticize his attitude toward the former oil leaders or say he used an excess of authority? Excess of authority when one's life is at stake? Authority was used in this case. The law was enforced. The other, the red tape—even though some may emphasize that—is secondary, because we have witnessed an action that, paradoxically, has no parallel—except, perhaps, the oil expropriation carried out by the unforgettable General and President Lazaro Cardenas.

"The legal action was taken against individuals, not organizations, which should be strengthened, not weakened. The action does not compromise the PRI's commitment to strengthening organizations in the cities and urban areas."

With his hands outstreched, Salinas de Gortari emphasized: "Oil was expropriated for Mexico, not for a small group.

It had to be that way: "The measure has met with exceptional approval, and it is on everyone's conscience that the law must prevail in all actions."

[Diaz] Will there be action in other sectors?

[Salinas] Only where illegal actions are proven.

"There were no taboos, and there will be none. There are no untouchables in Mexico because no one is above the law."

[Diaz] Is the labor movement being hurt?

[Salinas] As in all social structures, the labor movement is now the object of internal reflection.

[Diaz] The report of the arrest of the former oil leaders was made by the Attorney General's Office, which is headed by the federal government's lawyer. Therefore he is your lawyer, Mr President. Please explain how you learned about all this, how the order was given, and how the actions developed, including the presence of the Army in the streets?

[Salinas] It was a process that scrupulously adhered to the law, a process that has simply demonstrated that no one is above the law in Mexico. As the attorney general explained in detail, fulfilling the obligation to inform the Mexicans, it began with reports and charges of illegal actions that the Attorney General's Office is obliged to investigate. These were known since the previous administration. There is a brief compiled by the previous defense secretary asking those who are now accused to register their weapons, which were known to be in their possession, to comply with the law. Therefore, the attorney general said that information was being accumulated for several months. When he had sufficient proof, the Attorney General's Office acted, and—as provided by Article 7, Section II, of the Attorney General Office's Law—the attorney general was accompanied by Army soldiers.

"The Army complied with the request of the Attorney General's Office and efficiently carried out its responsibility, strictly according to the law.

"These facts reflect, I repeat, that there is no impunity in Mexico. If there were any, the citizens would not have the peace and tranquillity daily life requires. Only by living within the framework of the law can the citizens be certain they will be respected by the authorities as well as among themselves."

[Diaz] How did you learn about this situation?

[Salinas] Based on that information, responsible sectors had been warned to be alert to reports such as the purchase of arms—reports, I repeat, that were obtained by the Mexican Army and the Attorney General's Office.

[Diaz] I wonder, how can so many weapons have been smuggled in, and how can they have kept so many weapons hidden at home and such a long time? Why is it that nothing was done before? Why were no charges brought up before, allowing them to keep such a large quantity of weapons that could have caused a bloodbath in the country?

[Salinas] I repeat, we acted in line with our responsibilities when drawing up the charges. This way, it was possible to issue the arrest warrants the Attorney General's Office agent was carrying.

[Diaz] Was that really a problem of national security? Was there any danger of an uprising?

[Salinas] Storing such a large quantity of weapons greatly concerns the community and compels the authorities to act. It means those people were acting above the law when they unlawfully stored those weapons.

[Diaz] Mr President, it was said there was friction between you and the deposed oil union leaders. Apparently, you were irked by rumors that many union chiefs were urged—pressured—to vote for the opposition. It has been said those people in jail now played with several decks before, during, and after the elections.

[Salinas] The Mexican president's fundamental duty—which he swears to do on 1 December when the takes office—is to defend the constitutional order and the rule of law. The Mexican president cannot act out of pique. He must always act based on reason and the law. His major concern must be the welfare of Mexicans, calm, peace, and harmony in the family. That is his major concern, yet his first and foremost task is to defend our country's sovereignty.

"Moreover, I always want to act, as I have done during my 1st days in office, based on reason and adhering to the law."

[Diaz] There is no personal grudge?

[Salinas] Regino, a president cannot react or act like that. Because the president has the duty to obey the Constitution, his main responsibility is to ensure that the law sets the rules for day-to-day relations among Mexicans.

[Diaz] There has been talk that the adopted decision or measure, regardless of its legality, is a blow to unionism. Some say unionism is good; others say it is not; and then others do not know what they say. Can you tell me your views on unionism? How do you feel about it? What is your attitude regarding this frequently used term?

[Salinas] As you say, this term has been used too much. I think we cannot talk of unionism, because social changes are what determine its organizational guidelines and leadership. I have said the country needs a far-reaching modernization process. I have pledged to undertake this task. I have pledged to undertake tasks in the fields of political, economic, and social modernization. Modernization means change and reflects the changes already taking place in our society and the changes we wish would happen.

"As for labor organizations, modernization will be up to the workers themselves. I reaffirm my respect for the autonomy of labor unions."

[Diaz] Do you think we have lived under a cooperative system, and has this been useful?

[Salinas] We have lived under a political and social system that has permitted the means and methods of organization so social sectors can explain, defend, and promote their legitimate interests and their demands, and a system that allows the participation of a dialogue between the government and the community.

"It is a system that has achieved 60 years of peace and stability; it is difficult to find a similar system at the international level. This does not mean it is a static system; it has always been committed to change. Now more than ever, we are going through a stage in Mexico in which society and the authorities are convinced that change does not just happen but has to be promoted."

[Diaz] To what extent do labor leaders represent the rank and file, the people, the union members, and the unions? It is evident, Mr President, that the July elections were very significant because there were many rank-and-file people who did not vote, specifically did not vote for the PRI. Consequently, are those who have been leaders for so long still important for the government and the system, and not just for the government?

[Salinas] The social organizations of workers, businessmen, peasants, lower-income groups, and medium-class groups are indispensable to promote the participation of these sectors and to help in the communication-dialogue-consensus between the authorities and society. Unorganized participation runs the risk of fading away. Organization is an indispensable means of strengthening society.

"Now, regarding representation, it is up to the members of an organization to decide if their representatives continue to voice their most heartfelt demands; it is up to the rank and file."

[Diaz] I want to go back to what I just asked you. Why was there a need for such a large Army presence on the night when these gentlemen were taken to the Eastern Penitentiary's [Reclusorio Oriente] prosecuting office?

[Salinas] The attorney general explained that Article 7, Section II of the Attorney General Office's Law was observed in carrying out this action; this law calls for the Army's support to avoid any bloody incidents. The results of the action proved that the purpose for the article of the Attorney General Office's Law was well served. The purpose for the article is to bring security to the citizens and the country's strategic installations.

[Diaz] You have played tough with the law in your hands, but you have been threatened by certain groups for the time while you are president and when you cease to be president. Are you afraid? Do you feel a need for greater protection? Do you think something can happen? What did it mean to you to accept that, according to the law, action had to be taken against these gentlemen?

[Salinas] To have discovered a crime had been committed and not to have done anything about it would have been tantamount to not carrying out my responsibility. I am going to carry out my responsibility regardless of any personal feelings.

"Regarding my security, every chief of state has his own security methods, not based on danger from the people. I very much like walking among the people. The security methods adopted in our country for the chief of state, as in other nations, have a clear intention—I repeat: They are not implemented because of the community but because of unforeseen circumstances. However, I intend to continue coexisting among Mexicans with the same closeness that has allowed me to feel their warmth, solidarity, and, above all, the sincerity with which they talk, which is indispensable for me, because I want to listen to what they say."

[Diaz] What will happen when you leave the Presidency?

[Salinas] I will still be in contact with the people.

[Diaz] Obviously, you have pondered the pros and cons. Does the action against the former oil union leaders in any way affect the system of three sectors within the PRI: workers, peasants, and popular organizations?

[Salinas] The party is already going through a process of modernization and transformation. The legal actions taken a few days ago were against individuals, not against any organization. The party has said it is interested in strengthening, not weakening, organizations. In my opinion, that is the central point. In the agricultural field, the party's proposal to create a permanent agrarian congress in which the various peasant organizations can participate shows that this sector—one of the pillars of our party—has been strengthened. As for the labor movement, the workers and their leaders are working and taking steps to strengthen, not weaken, their organizations. Popular organizations—that sectorial structure established for the party by General Lazaro Cardenas—have been subjected to a great transformation in the country's urban areas; this is one of the sectors where more changes have been made to include not only popular groups but also new middle groups demanding a share of participation and political organization. "Therefore, the actions taken against individuals do not affect the party's commitment to strengthen peasant, labor, and urban organizations."

[Diaz] Have government lawyers and their investigators discovered any outbreak or isolated actions in various parts of the country by groups of oil workers who sympathize with their arrested leaders?

[Salinas] On the 1st day, the community was concerned about the possibility of a general strike that could affect a field that, as I said, is strategic for the nation: the production of oil by-products. Here we must recognize that the quick normalization of Pemex activities and that not even isolated incidents occurred the following 2 days shows the seriousness and responsibility of Pemex workers. I must commend those workers who know that the industry in which they work is vital for the country's development and that it belongs to all Mexicans, not to a small group. Our petroleum was expropriated for Mexico, not for a minority group.

[Diaz] How have you perceived the people's reaction in general to this action from your government?

[Salinas] I have perceived an exceptional response of solidarity and support for the government measure. I have received letters and phone calls and have been contacted by people from various parts of the country who have not only expressed their approval but have also demanded that we continue enforcing the law.

[Diaz] Does this mean there are other sectors where a similar penal action could be implemented?

[Salinas] We will only take action when we can prove an illegal act was committed; in other words, authorities will only proceed when there is evidence to prove a crime, as in this case.

[Diaz] There will be no taboos?

[Salinas] There were none and will not be any.

[Diaz] We agree that the adopted measure is right, but what will happen with the charges against stock exchange houses, with the teachers unions problems, with the telephone workers problems, and with the flight of capital? Are those kinds of things being investigated? I am not saying there are wrongdoings, but are these things being investigated?

[Salinas] Authorities will take action when illegal actions have been perpetrated; however, authorities will not be able to take action against individuals or organizations when no crimes have been perpetrated.

[Diaz] There are groups holding power that remain untouched. Have such groups thus far influenced one way or another the decisions by the government through dialogue with the president of the republic, or have they remained aside?

[Salinas] Government decisions are made strictly under the government's own responsibility. Regarding the first part of your question, there are no untouchables in our country, because no one is above the law. When the government makes a decision, it is doing so in response to the dialogue it has established with the community, in response to concertation and communication, and following the program established within the overall development strategy. Government decisions are made following this criteria.

[Diaz] Mr President, how can you explain that so much time went by? We get daily reports on the fortunes made by these men now in jail; such fortunes cannot be made overnight. Why is the information being disclosed years later, when it was obvious to all this was happening? Why is this being disclosed now?

[Salinas] I would say actions had been taken in several sectors. I myself participated in the work to establish compulsory bids for all oil investments instead of granting them through middlemen. There were some accomplishments in this sector, no doubt about it. Consequently—in this case, we are talking about what occurred 10 January—a crime was being perpetrated that required actions from the authorities to prevent it or to punish it through the law.

[Diaz] Do you feel any personal satisfaction about what has happened?

[Salinas] I feel pleased when laws are enforced, when I fulfill my responsibility of enforcing the Constitution and the laws.

[Diaz] Do you believe the national labor movement is being harmed?

[Salinas] The labor movement, like all social structures in our country, is undergoing a process of internal reflection and changes being conducted by the labor movement's own leadership, just as it is happening at the various forms of social organizations existing in the country, because a huge transformation process is taking place in Mexico. Those who have not perceived this and who are not willing to experience, participate in, and even direct this transformation are going against the social dynamic and thus, against the force of Mexican history.

New PPS Secretary General Ratified Unanimously

FL2801134589 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2159 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Indalecio Sayago Herrera has been ratified as secretary general of the Popular Socialist Party (PPS) by unanimous acclamation during the party's Central Committee plenum.

One hundred members attended the meeting held at the party's headquarters. They observed a minute of silence in memory of their former leader, the late Jorge Cruickshank Garcia, who died on Tuesday 17 January.

Sayago Herrera read a work report during the 23d PPS Plenum. The new leader will hold the post of secretary general of the party for the next 2 years.

Foreign Investment Gains, Allocation Reported

PA2601152789 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 22 Jan 89 p 6

[Summary] The Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat [SECOFI] has reported that foreign capital investment in 1988 generated $3 billion dollars in exports and improved Mexico's competitiveness in international markets. According to SECOFI, 42 percent of the foreign investment approved in 1988 came from the EEC.

SECOFI also reported that 70 percent of the new investment was allocated to public services and to a group of 287 projects that will yield $3 billion in exports.

These measures are part of the current administration's new policy of giving priority to high-technology projects that will create new jobs and contribute to the country's development.

El Salvador

FMLN Claims 55 Army Casualties in Attacks

PA3101040089 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 31 Jan 89

["Bulletin" issued by the Modesto Ramirez Central Front, Chalatenango sector; date not given]

[Text] Between the late hours of 29 January and the early hours of 30 January, the FMLN carried out a guerrilla unity military maneuver in Chalatenango Department against positions of the 4th Infantry Brigade of Military Detachment No 1.

This new subregional maneuver is called: "For peace and freedom, our people are fighting courageously," and it was carried out in the following manner:

1. At 2345 on 29 January, we attacked [word indistinct] the enemy positions of the 4th Brigade at La Laguna, where there were three Azmitia Battalion companies. After 30 minutes, we evicted the enemy from the two positions and [words indistinct] La Virgen Hill and [word indistinct]. Combat then continued in the central area of [word indistinct]. The enemy troops received support from the Salvadoran Air Force, which sent a C-47, one push-pull aircraft, and a helicopter gunship, all of which were totally ineffective against our units. In this first attack of the operation, the FMLN killed 20 enemies and wounded 25, which totals 45 casualties.

We recovered the following for our forces: 14 M-16 rifles, 4,000 cartridges, 1 PRC-77 radio, 500 G-3 cartridges, 2 claymore mines, 12 (?clips) for M-16 rifles, 12 uniforms, and 12 pairs of boots. We also captured one soldier at La Laguna. In this attack, our units do not report any casualties.

2. At 2345, we also attacked a Military Detachment No 1 position in Concepcion, Quezaltepeque. This attack was carried out with the people's artillery and rifle fire. After 15 minutes, the enemy had evacuated the positions, and we immediately proceeded to destroy the offices of the National Administration for Telecommunications [ANTEL] and the mayor's office.

We hereby report to our people and the national press that during this action we captured Nicolas Silva Sanchez, the municipal mayor, and Jorge Alberto Lopez Santos, the municipal assistant. In December, we had sent Mr Silva Sanchez, who is the mayor of that town, a note demanding that he and his municipal council resign from their positions. As he refused to resign and continued to lend himself to the dirty counterinsurgent maneuver, our units captured him, and he is now in the hands of [words indistinct].

At 0100 on 30 January, we began an attack against the Cobra Battalion troops who were in La Palma. The enemy left 30 minutes later. Combat continued in a place called Las Moras until 0430. It has been confirmed that we inflicted casualties on the enemy and destroyed the ANTEL offices. We regret that Comrade Elias fell in combat.

4. [Number as heard] At 0100, we began an attack with people's artillery against a Cobra Battalion group in San Ignacio. The enemy did not reply to the attack and evacuated their positions. After 45 minutes, the positions were vacant, and we confirmed that we inflicted five casualties on the enemy—one dead and four wounded.

5. At 0030, we attacked the Cobra Battalion command position in El Poys. The attack began with people's artillery, which hit four sheds where the troops were located. We have not been able to confirm the number of casualties in this action.

6. At 0100, we attacked Dulce Nombre de Maria, where there were enemy troops. We destroyed the offices of the Savings and Loans Bank, [word indistinct], and ANTEL. We also executed [words indistinct], of the 4th Infantry Brigade intelligence department, and a member of the death squads and of the [word indistinct]. This agent of repression was called (Gilda Morcillo).

7. At 0000, we harassed a [words indistinct] of the criminal Treasury Police in Nueva Concepcion. We have not been able to confirm the number of casualties in this attack.

8. At 2300 last night, we attacked enemy positions in San Miguel de Mercedes, but we have been unable to confirm the number of casualties.

9. We also attacked enemy troops in (Elviti), a hamlet near the 5 November Dam. When the troops felt the power of our forces, they left their positions and fled in disorder.

10. As part of this maneuver, we placed three stone and fire barricades on the Northern Highway, in the area of (Pitalanza) and San Ignacio. We were very effective in distributing propaganda throughout Chalatenango Department.

A helicopter gunship, which was sent to support the Azmitia Battalion troops near La Laguna, strafed the heavily populated areas, terrorizing a family that lived at La Virgen hill. In addition, the C-47 plane strafed the populated areas of La Laguna. Our units are investigating whether or not there are any more casualties in this indiscriminate strafing.

To conclude, we want to point out that as a result of this maneuver called "For peace and freedom, our people are fighting courageously," we inflicted on the puppet army a total of 55 casualties, and we recovered 14 M-16 rifles,

[words indistinct], 1 PRC-77 radio, 500 G-3 cartridges, 2 claymore mines, 12 [words indistinct] for M-16 rifles, 12 uniforms, and 12 pairs of boots.

Honduras

Gunmen Attack Home of Nicaraguan Ambassador

PA3001152889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1404 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 30 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Unidentified gunmen fired several 9-mm and .38-caliber rounds early Sunday [29 Jan] at the residence of Francisco Lacayo, Nicaraguan ambassador to Honduras, but no casualties resulted from the shooting, police officials confirmed today.

Juan Jose Membreno, a Nicaraguan Embassy spokesman, said that "the unidentified gunmen were probably contras riding in a vehicle that could not be identified because everything happened so quickly."

Most of the bullets hit the brick wall next to the security guard's wooden booth. The booth is normally occupied by a Honduran policeman.

Membreno stated that, for unknown reasons, "the Honduran policeman in charge of the embassy's external security was not inside his booth at the time of the attack."

Police spokesmen said they did not know if security for the embassy is provided in the early morning hours or only during the day and added that the case is under investigation.

Membreno confirmed that Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman sent a protest note on Sunday to his counterpart, Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras, holding the Honduran Government responsible for any damage or casualties in the Nicaraguan Embassy.

The same sources said that security personnel inside the Nicaraguan Embassy stated that "the attack is linked with the murder of contra commander Manuel Rugama Acevedo on 6 January."

Acevedo, better known as "Aureliano," was the number-two man in the Nicaraguan Resistance. He was shot to death on the outskirts of Tegucigalpa by unidentified gunmen.

According to the Nicaraguan Government, "Aureliano was killed by his own contra comrades as a result of their serious internal problems," while the Nicaraguan Resistance leadership stated that "a Sandinist commando group killed Aureliano."

Nicaragua

Ortega Denies Plans To Meet With Quayle

PA3001192789 Paris AFP in Spanish 1733 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Caracas, 30 Jan (AFP)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has told the Caracas morning newspaper, EL NACIONAL, that he has not asked to meet with U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle.

Quayle, who confirmed his presence in Caracas for the scheduled 2 February inauguration of Carlos Andres Perez, the new Venezuelan president, said he will not meet with Ortega or Cuban President Fidel Castro.

Ortega added: "I have at no time intended to enter into direct negotiation with the new U.S. Administration, because the chair Ronald Reagan occupied for 8 years is still warm. We will have to wait for a better opportunity."

In an interview with Venezuelan television 1 week ago, Ortega said: "Reagan left the White House on 20 January, but the Nicaraguan revolution remains. Consequently, the new U.S. Administration will have to deal with us."

Prices of Oil Byproducts Change as of 30 Jan

PA3001174289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] The Nicaraguan Institute of Energy, INE, has announced new oil byproduct prices effective today, 30 January. These are the new prices: aviation gasoline—5,800 cordobas a gallon; automobile gasoline—4,800 cordobas a gallon; diesel oil—3,500 cordobas a gallon; kerosene—3,100 cordobas a gallon; turbine oil—3,100 cordobas a gallon; jet fuel—1,900 cordobas a gallon; fuel oil for energy—750 cordobas a gallon; fuel oil for other purposes—1,050 cordobas a gallon; penetrating asphalt [asfalto de penetracion]—1,900 cordobas a gallon; (?cookback) asphalt—1,900 cordobas a gallon; turpentine—3,600 cordobas a gallon; HHA [not further identified]—5,100 cordobas a gallon; propane and butane gas—1,260 cordobas a gallon wholesale, 28,000 cordobas per 100-lb cylinder wholesale, 6,300 cordobas per 25-lb cylinder wholesale, and 2,500 cordobas per 10-lb cylinder wholesale.

In addition, the Transport and Construction Ministry has announced that beginning today, commuters between Managua and cities such as Esteli, Somoto, Ocotal, and Leon will have to pay an additional 13 percent over the previous fare.

Panama

Solis Palma Discusses Electoral Campaign

PA3101041789 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0119 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Speech by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, at a ceremony honoring Democratic Revolutionary Party Legislator Luis Gomez in San Miguelito—live]

[Text] Good evening everyone, Honorable Legislator and friend Lucho Gomez, Carlos Loaiza, Isaac Vernaza, Nicolas Barrios, Honorable Legislator Harmodio Icaza, Victor Sheiler, Antonio Vargas, Ali Nunez, Honorable Legislator Tomas Altamirano Duque, my friend Alfonso Zamora, Captain Porfirio Reyes—representing the 10th Military Zone—Honorable Representative America de Johnson, Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter, Felipe Cano, Ernesto Perez Balladares, my friend Ramiro Chambonnet, Deputy Education Minister Juan Bosco Bernal, my friend Maritza Herrera, and other companeros and friends present here.

It is a little embarrassing for me to speak after the person who is being honored has spoken, although I am currently the president of the Republic. For me, the center of attention today and always should be the honored person, especially on this occasion when we are honoring an excellent Panamanian, a great legislator, a man who is was truly born from the people as Honorable Legislator Lucho Gomez. [applause]

However, this time protocol has made me speak last—or at least I think so—therefore, I will only say I few words.

First, I want to express my satisfaction over the solidarity shown by those who are going to run for the same position in the same district. Present here are Ana Villa, Pepe Zamora, Cano, Moyo [Legislator Icaza], and all those who are going to be contending—justly and rightly—for votes from their community for the same position. However, they have come here without any selfishness.

That is how it must be; there cannot be selfishness in this political campaign because at stake is the Republic's fate, its condition as a free, sovereign and independent nation. It is not merely a matter of alternating power; it is no more and no less a matter of preserving the conquests of Torrijism, the nation's progress, and the Panamanian people's right to forge their own destiny, a right no one can deprive them of. [applause, crowd shouts: "United people will never be defeated!" "One single flag, one single territory!"]

It is said the opposition is not worried about the ticket—so offensive to the country—they have launched. At a time when the Panamanian nation's crisis must be solved, when its destiny as a free nation is at stake, we cannot come up with a ticket that means nothing for the Panamanian nation, because that is offensive to the Republic's dignity. [applause, shouts]

However, they say they do not care because they are going to conduct a plebiscite. They are going to ask for a yes or a no—yes for them and a no for the government.

However, we are going to answer them with government programs, with action, and with a firm determination to fight for you, the poor people of this country. I want to ask you to permanently fight to preserve the achievements of the Panamanian revolution. Much remains to be done, but we have had to overcome sad and painful stages little by little. We are doing it, however, and we have found the Republic's final path. We must preserve this.

We should not do as in the story of the turtle. After the deluge, the animals in Noah's ark were dying of thirst and needed a candidate to bring water from a distant place. They chose the turtle to do the job. The Panamanian people have to choose their hares to bring them water, bread, and salt to defend their destiny. We should not choose the turtles of history, which is what the opposition did. [applause]

I thank Lucho Gomez for his kind words to my wife. I thank him because she really is an unpretentious woman. She has never been involved in these types of activities even though I have been a politician for over 40 years. She is aware of the people's problems because she is part of the people. I am pleased, because when we wake up early every morning—we do it quite often—she wakes up with me and makes some coffee for the guardsmen. She does not wait for the maids to do the work; she continues to work. I have asked her not to develop any bad habits, because this will soon be over. She has to keep working as usual with humbleness and courage because we have always lived off our work, our effort, and with our souls in the Panamanian people.

Lucho, I congratulate you for this moment. You deserve it, and I believe we will come out ahead with men like you, with men like Pepe, with men like Moyo, with men like Cano, with women like Ana Villa, and with so many others who represent your souls. You should not leave them by themselves. Keep supporting them, because victory will be ours to preserve the Panamanian nation, which belongs to you, to us, and will belong to the Panamanian people and to no one else. Thank you very much. [applause]

PRD Postpones National Convention Until 6 Feb
PA3001235389 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2313 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] The Panamanian Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] will hold its national convention on 6 February. PRD Secretary General Darinel Espino gave details on the upcoming convention:[Begin recording] [Espino] Our party had over 3,300 people who were candidates for the posts of corregimiento representatives, alternate corregimiento representatives, legislators, and alternate legislators. The convention delegates held an internal convention, and yesterday over 5,000 delegates voted throughout the country to elect the official candidates for legislator and corregimiento representative. We now have all our candidates for the posts of corregimiento representatives and legislators, and they were elected based on the party's internal democratic system.

It is interesting to note that we all participated in those elections and that the winners will receive their party's support in all areas. Internal democracy creates our party's internal unity.

[Reporter] What can you tell us about the upcoming national convention?

[Espino] We have been taking care of several details regarding our convention. We have distributed invitations and credentials to the convention delegates. Six thousand delegates will attend the national convention at the Nuevo Panama Gymnasium on Monday, 6 February.

We are studying the situation in each province and studying the various candidates, including the opposition candidates and the COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] candidates. We hope to achieve total victory based on good organization and the joint work of COLINA and our party. [end recording]

Electoral Tribunal Rejects Opposition Candidates
PA3101050489 Paris AFP in Spanish 0420 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Panama City, 30 Jan (AFP)—The Panamanian Electoral Tribunal (TEP) today rejected the registration of the presidential nomination presented by the opponents of General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime after claiming there are alleged mistakes in the documents presented by the Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADO).

TEP Secretary General Carlos Bonilla said the ADO list of three presidential candidates [terna presidencial]—composed of Guillermo Endara, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford—did not meet "all the requirements" the law demands for its registration at TEP.

Endara is the opposition presidential candidate and Arias and Ford are candidates for the first and second vice presidencies, respectively, for the upcoming 7 May presidential elections.

Bonilla asserted the Authentic Liberal Party—which along with the Authentic Panamenist Party, the Christian Democratic Party, and the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement is part of ADO—"did not make official" its participation in ADO in the document [words indistinct] elections.

Bonilla said the opposition parties can present their request for registration again on separate tickets [formulas separadas] or "by holding a new electoral convention."

Liberal leader Carlos Ortega rejected the arguments given by TEP, which established 7 February as the deadline for the registration of presidential candidates.

Human Rights Violations at Air Base Reported
PA3001211789 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 30 Jan 89 p 5

[From the unattributed "Scoops" column]

[Text] It is time to end the constant violations of the Torrijos-Carter treaties by U.S. soldiers. What is happening on the road leading to Veracruz is intolerable and should be denounced in all international forums. The base at Howard wins all prizes for human rights violations.

Soldiers Charged With Violating Sovereignty
PA3101013289 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Another open violation of the canal treaties and our sovereignty were the arbitrary arrest and physical abuse against Panamanian citizens Jorge De Leon and Carlos Rivas by the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in Panama.

Both Panamanian citizens were intercepted by U.S. military men at noon on 27 January, while they were going to their jobs at the Dredging Division of the Panama Canal Commission at Gamboa. The Americans, Sergeants (Kirk Wallace) and Robert Peterson of the Southern Command, were dressed in civilian clothes. They arbitrarily detained and physically attacked Panamanian citizen De Leon, while Tejada [as heard] was threatened in his own vehicle by a regulation 9-mm weapon.

Government Summons Canal Pilots on Taxes

PA3001205789 [Editorial Report] Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish on 30 January publishes edicts on pages 7 and 8 issued by the General Revenue Directorate of the Finance and Treasury Ministry. The edicts, dated 27 January, individually summon Raul Celis, Fernando Fabrega, David Constable, Harmodio Herrera, Diego Porras, Edgar Tejada, Luis Panay, Samuel Jimenez, Limderis Diamantopulos, Efrain Hallax, Orlando Allard, and Johnny Bogle, who are all identified as Panama Canal Commission pilots. They are summoned to appear in court to defend themselves in the legal proceedings initiated against them under the attachment authority of the Regional Revenue Administration, "because of delinquency in the payment of income tax and education tax."

New Commerce, Industries Minister Sworn In

PA3101000789 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2328 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Businessman Isaac Anono has been sworn in as commerce and industries minister by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency. Isaac Anono replaces Mario Rognoni, who has been nominated as a legislator by the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party].

The ceremony was held in the Yellow Room of the Presidential Palace and was attended by other cabinet ministers, PRD President Carlos Duque, and friends and colleagues of the new minister.

Argentina

Alfonsin Cancels Trip; Caputo To Head Delegation

PY3101002489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2311 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 30 Jan (TELAM)—Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez tonight reported that President Raul Alfonsin will not travel to Venezuela for the presidential inauguration of Carlos Andres Perez, because "he is personally involved in the events following the attack on the 3d General Belgrano Infantry Regiment in La Tablada."

Lopez stated that the official Argentine delegation will be headed by Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, who will leave on 1 February.

This information was provided by Lopez in the Olivos Residence at the conclusion of the Security Council meeting, which lasted almost 3 hours. [passage omitted]

Sanguinetti Meets Alfonsin, Expresses Solidarity

PY2901212989 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1220 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Jan (NA)—Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti today said that the attack on the 3d Infantry Regiment at La Tablada "was an attack against Latin American democracy, carried out by a messianic group that was well trained and organized."

Sanguinetti said he shares the day of mourning declared in Argentina today because "we democrats must express our solidarity with each other."

The Uruguayan president made these statements this morning at Ezeiza International Airport, where he was received by Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, with whom he met briefly before continuing on his trip to Colombia.

Yacht Docks at Falkland's Puerto Argentino

PY3001172789 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] An Argentine private yacht has arrived at the Malvinas Islands, causing a general alert at the British garrison. The yacht, with five crew members, had problems with its rudder and unexpectedly appeared at Puerto Argentino.

According to the local police, it entered the so-called exclusion zone and headed toward the islands without being detected. The British police chief has reported that the crew members of the Patagonian yacht were very happy because for the first time since the 1982 war, an Argentine ship has arrived at the Malvinas Islands.

The crew, who did not try to disembark, received water and supplies as well as assistance to repair the rudder. It left 24 hours later, escorted by a fishing-control ship.

This morning we contacted the Naval Prefecture. We were told that there were five Argentines on the ship, and that it left Olivos or San Isidro last week. This could not be confirmed. Its last stop was made in Puerto Deseado, reporting that it was going to Ushuaia. It apparently went off course and ended up in the Malvinas Islands, thus becoming the first Argentine vessel to dock at Puerto Argentino since the war over the Malvinas Islands.

Public Opinion Survey Shows Voter Preference

PY3001173789 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 29 Jan 89 pp 26, 27

[Summary] A survey conducted by the Public Opinion Study Center between 15 December 1988 and 10 January 1989 in the federal capital, greater Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Mendoza, Rosario, and Tucuman has produced the following results regarding voters' preferences for the May 1989 presidential election:

Undecided voters—39 percent; Justicialist Party—25 percent; Radical Civic Union—19.2 percent; Democratic Center Union—6.7 percent; United Left—1.0 percent; others—0.2 percent; abstainees—5.4 percent; and blank votes—2.6 percent.

Bolivia

Official Delegation Seeks Credits From U.S.

PY3001151589 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Excerpt] This past weekend, an official delegation left for the United States seeking to obtain further credits for the country.

This delegation is headed by Planning and Coordination Minister Fernando Romero, who said he will meet with representatives of international financial organizations and with officials of the George Bush administration.

Romero is accompanied by Bolivian Central Bank President Jaques Trigo who will participate in the talks on the IMF program. He also intends to meet with high-ranking officials of the State Department, and with officials of the Federal Reserve Department. He will also meet with IDB and World Bank officials. They will try to expedite the disbursement of credits agreed upon through cofinancing contracts with Japan. [passage omitted]

Foreign Energy Ministers Leave for Brazil

PY3001151389 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal and Energy and Hydrocarbons Minister Fernando Illanes yesterday left for Brazil to meet with Brazilian Government officials.

At today's meeting, the Bolivian ministers will demand the fulfillment of notes signed last year by the presidents of the two countries in which Bolivia agreed to sell to Brazil 3 million cubic meters of natural gas daily in return for thermoelectricity projects and agroindustrial projects for the production of polyethylene and fertilizers.

Regarding gas, the most important part for Bolivia, the two countries agreed to implement contracts beginning 1992 for a period of 25 years. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Sarney Calls Visit 'Historic, Symbolic'

PY3001124989 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Excerpt] President Jose Sarney has returned from Angola and has voiced satisfaction about the sociopolitical decisions made by Congress.

Sarney said his 2-day visit to Angola was both historic and symbolic.

[Begin Sarney recording] As I said in Luanda, I believe it was a historic visit, in that it was the first Brazilian presidential visit to Angola. It was also a symbolic visit because it represents, above all, the Brazilian people's support for the great Angolan people and their struggle for their independence and sovereignty.

Now that Angola is beginning a period of peace, Brazil will continue to help the Angolan people, just as we did during their period of war. [end recording]

The president also commented on the congressional approval of Provisional Measure No 32, which freezes prices and salaries. Sarney said the decision by Congress will preserve the economic measures proposed by the government.

[Begin Sarney recording] I believe the solution adopted by Congress will preserve the economic measures. At the same time, Congress is sharing with the Executive Branch the responsibility for the economic program. [end recording]

Sarney added that he is confident that the Summer Plan will succeed. He also sent a message to Brazilian workers.

[Begin Sarney recording] I would like to say that we expect high inflation rates to disappear. In the wake of these high inflation rates, we can only offer the results of our work. I believe the results will be positive and the Brazilian people will soon see them. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Nobrega Praises Decision on Economic Program

PY3001131289 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1100 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega has said that Congress' approval of Provisional Measure No 32 has been a victory for both Congress and for the Executive Branch.

Nobrega said that the decision will guarantee the technical consistency of the economic program. He explained that the salary readjustments to be paid in March, April, and May will be equivalent to a 4 or 5 percent increase, which is totally affordable by the Brazilian economy and by Brazilian companies.

Nobrega added that a sector of those workers who earned above-average salaries in 1988, will probably receive no readjustment now. To ensure the success of the program, he said, the price freeze should also be maintained.

The minister said that the government will resort to the law concerning charges that some sectors have been trying to evade compliance with the Summer Plan. [passage omitted]

Chile

Pinochet Reportedly To Attend Hirohito's Funeral

PY3101022489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0143 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Santiago, 30 Jan (EFE)—According to the conservative weekly financial publication ESTRATEGIA, Chilean President Augusto Pinochet is getting ready to attend the funeral of Emperor Hirohito on 24 February.

This brief piece of information was published in the column "It Is Being Commented On" under the title "Getting the Luggage Ready."

Last week a source in the Chilean Foreign Ministry stated that a "high personality" is going to attend the funeral of Emperor Hirohito.

If the trip to Japan takes place, it will be General Pinochet's first trip abroad since his aborted trip to the Philippines in March 1980, when on a flight to Manila, Pinochet was told that President Ferdinand Marcos had canceled his invitation.

In his 15 years in power, Pinochet's trips abroad were very few. He went to Brazil in 1974 to the presidential inauguration of Ernesto Geisel. In 1975 he went to the funeral of Francisco Franco of Spain and in the same year he met with General Hugo Banzer at the Chilean-Bolivian border.

In 1977 Pinochet went to Washington for the signing of the Panama Canal Treaty, and he was received by President Jimmy Carter. In 1978 he met with Argentine President General Ernesto Videla in Mendoza, Argentina, over the British decision on the Beagle Channel.

During the campaign before the 5 October plebiscite in which the Pinochet candidacy was defeated, he said on a national television network that, "I make sacrifices staying in Chile so that Chileans can travel."

Chilean Labor Minister Departs for Venezuela

PY3101015089 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Labor Minister Guillermo Arthur has traveled to Caracas, Venezuela, to attend the inauguration of the new president, Carlos Andres Perez. He is leading the official Chilean delegation, which is made up of Chilean Ambassador to Venezuela Nicolas Novoa and other officials. [passage omitted]

Newspaper Reports 'Argentine Communists' Arrival

PY3001153289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1512 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Santiago, 29 Jan (TELAM-ANSA)—Unofficial sources cited by the newspaper LA TERCERA DE LA HORA today reported that Chilean antisubversive organizations are investigating the entrance into the country of more than 130 young Argentine communists, among whom "they are looking for two Argentine extremists involved in the attack" on the 3d Infantry Regiment in La Tablada on the outskirts of Buenos Aires.

LA TERCERA reports that the Chilean security organizations "have intensified the border control and that an order has been given for a general control" of young Argentine communists who arrived in Chile to participate in the "volunteer summer work" carried out here by opposition students' organizations. According to the Chilean military regime, the objective of these students is to engage in political and violent actions.

LA TERCERA adds that the Argentine communists belong to the Communist Youth Federation, to the Argentine University Students Federation, and to the General San Martin Movement. In Chile, they joined the University of Chile Students Federation and the Federation of Chilean High School Students in the "volunteer work."

'Clandestine Cemetery' Found in Tocopilla Port

PY3001154789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2234 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Santiago, 28 Jan (EFE)—The local media today reported that at least 14 bodies have been found in a clandestine cemetery that was discovered in Tocopilla Port, 1556 km to the northwest of Santiago.

According to a report published by the Santiago newspaper FORTIN MAPOCHO, the bodies may have been buried 15 years ago. Witnesses who were quoted by the paper have stated that "some bodies are beaten and mutilated and at least one has a bullet hole in its skull."

Regional officials have attributed the deaths to yellow fever epidemics that broke out in 1930. Felipe Valenzuela, a lawyer who heads the Antofagasta Human Rights Commission, has reported that some bodies are wrapped in polyethylene, "a substance that was not in existence in 1930."

Two days ago, when the first seven bodies were found by workers, the regional human rights commission considered that they may be some of the detained people who have been missing since the 1973 coup.

According to a report broadcast by Santiago Radio Cooperativa today, a Carabineros precinct was only a few meters from the site until the end of 1973.

The human rights commission—a nongovernment organization—has a list of 13 people who have been missing in Tocopilla since the military coup. Valenzuela said: "These people, including the Tocopilla governor and the local mayor, were probably murdered," because they were members of Salvador Allende's ousted government.

Valenzuela also said there is another list of 26 missing people in the mining town of Calama, some 120 km south of Tocopilla.

FORTIN MAPOCHO's article asserted today that some of these deaths are attributed to the group which was commanded in 1973 by General Sergio Arellano, who is now retired. Arellano, a former chief of the Santiago military garrison, in 1973 toured the Chilean northern region, processing members of the political groups connected to Allende's Socialist Administration via a war council.

Based on Radio Cooperativa's report, it has been unofficially reported that the 14 bodies will be taken to the Santiago Forensic Institute to be identified. The identification will not be easy because the hands and feet of some of the bodies have been mutilated.

Ecuador

Machala To Purchase Road Equipment From USSR

PA2801225389 Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 19 Jan 89 p 7

[Report by Jacinto Castro]

[Text] Machala, Ecuador—Officials of the Soviet Embassy in Ecuador led by the secretary general for foreign trade have met in this city with Mayor Harry Alvarez to conclude an agreement under which the municipality of Machala will purchase machinery worth $2 million from the Soviet Union.

The Soviet delegation was accompanied by Segundo Wong, executive president of the Reybanpac Banana Company, which has done business for 12 years with the Soviet Union through barter contracts. The equipment to be delivered consists of the following: 10 dump trucks, 4 sewage water pumps (Bac-all), 1 mechanical sweeper, 3 backhoes, 3 diggers, 2 bulldozers, 3 road rollers, and other equipment.

Machala Mayor Harry Alvarez was pleased that this step was taken, because it will give the municipality the road equipment it needs to implement public works projects in the city, suburban neighborhoods, and rural areas.

Monetary Board Takes Steps To Curb Inflation

PA2701190089 Paris AFP in Spanish 0535 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Text] Quito, 25 Jan (AFP)—Ecuador's Monetary Board has once again risen the banking cash reserve and established a credit program for 1989 to give incentives to production to lower the inflation rate, which rose to 85.71 percent in 1988.

For the third time in 5 months, the Monetary Board, which is chiefly composed of ministers and top government officials, is ordering a 2-percent increase in the banking cash reserves to reduce the money in circulation. As of 2 February, the banking cash reserve will be 31 percent, while it was 25 percent in August 1988.

The Monetary Board felt there was an excess in liquidity and is now seeking to put this indicator within the limits of the Central Bank's monetary and credit program for this year.

The board insists on its goal of bringing the annual inflation rate down to 30 percent. It expects the GNP will grow .9 percent during 1989 and expects to have $190 million in monetary reserves. Although now there is a $176-million deficit, the reserves are showing a slow but sustained recovery.

The Central Bank's credit program expects that the public sector will not receive any financing, although the small-business sector or the informal economy sector will receive a line of credit for the first time.

Loans for the production sector will total 52.31 billion sucres ($107 million), the construction sector will receive 10.3 billion sucres ($21 million), and the small-business sector will receive 4 billion sucres ($8 million). A total of 3.148 billion sucres ($7 million) will be loaned to finance foreign trade.

The construction sector will be of particular interest because it dropped 6.8 percent in 1988. In 1987, it had increased 1.4 percent as a result of the work to repair the damage which was caused by the 1986 earthquakes. The construction sector occupies 10 percent of the labor force. The entire labor force is estimated to be 5 million people or about half the population.

Small businessmen can receive loans to be used for operating capital up to 25 legal minimum wages—that is, 550,000 sucres ($1,134)—until the amount of capital assets is quadrupled.

The Monetary Board noted that this is the first time credits for this sector have been granted as an attempt to counter the negative social impact on jobs and production which has been caused by the current crisis.

Guerrilla's Deny Decision To Lay Down Weapons

PA3001192889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1723 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Quito, 30 Jan (EFE)—The Ecuadoran insurgent group Alfaro Lives, Dammit, (AVC) explained today that no peace agreement has yet been formalized with Rodrigo Borja's administration; thus, the AVC denied the report that it had decided to lay down its weapons.

A press release delivered to EFE today and signed by Commander Joaquin Pachacamac on behalf of the AVC Central Command, criticized Government (Interior) Minister Andres Vallejo for saying that the group had already pledged to renounce the armed struggle.

"That unilateral statement (by Minister Vallejo), which distorts the content of the dialogue and in which the government takes the liberty of speaking in our name, has generated indignation among AVC sympathizers and the Ecuadoran people," the communique says.

The insurgent group added that if the government continues to make statements of this type, there will be a "breakdown of any possibility of dialogue and any possibility of a peace agreement, which would demonstrate the government's lack of commitment to the country's pacification."

However, the communique emphasizes that the group trusts that an agreement will be signed "in which the government will reaffirm its willingness to take practical steps to make the national dialogue a reality, just as we have reaffirmed our commitment to move toward political activity without weapons."

Peru

Visiting Christian Democracy Head Meets Garcia

PY2701205389 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Report from the Lima main square by journalist Luis Urmeneta—live]

[Excerpt] [Urmeneta] Today we have the pleasant visit of the representatives of the Christian Democracy International. Its president, Flaminio Piccoli, has just met with President Alan Garcia Perez. What did you talk about with the president?

[Italian Ambassador to Peru Federico di Roberto paraphrasing answer by Picolli, who answers in Italian] Mr Piccoli talked with President Garcia about several subjects, like bilateral issues, which evidently are going very well because Italy gives Peru much aid, especially in the field of economic cooperation.

They also discussed an important subject not only in Peru but in all Latin America; that is, the foreign debt problem. Mr Piccoli said it is very important to find organic, coherent, and valid solutions for all the Latin American countries. It is not fair that all these countries suffer this heavy burden.

[Urmeneta] Will relations between Peru and Italy increase?

[Di Roberto] Relations between the two countries should be strengthened, and become increasingly cordial. Latin America, and Peru in particular, are sister countries to us. It is necessary to increase relations between Europe and Latin America, in order that you, the people of the year 2000, may know all the values of the new civilization. [passage omitted]

Shining Path Kills Journalist, 2 Policemen

PY2701150889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0339 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Lima, 26 Jan (EFE)—Police sources have reported in Lima that alleged members of the Shining Path terrorist group have today shot a Peruvian journalist in the town of Ica, 305 km south of Lima.

Luis Picone was shot by three unidentified individuals as he was entering the Independencia radio station, where he works, in downtown Ica.

The sources added that a note was found next to the journalist's body. The note said: "This is how informers die." The note concluded with praise for the armed fight.

Picone's murder is part of the wave of terrorism launched in Ica, in which terrorists have bombed the local APRA office and the Housing Ministry offices. The bomb attacks have caused damage but have injured no one.

Shining Path columns also set fire to a bus traveling from Lima to Ica. The attack took place at the village of Subtanjalla, a few kilometers from Ica.

It has been reported that before setting the bus on fire the terrorists ordered all passengers to get off.

Picone's murder occurred 6 years after the massacre of eight journalists and their guide at the Andean village of (Uchurujabwgdel) in Ayacucho Department.

Recalling the massacre on this anniversary, media members still wonder about the reasons for the massacre and who planned it. A local court, however, found three peasants guilty for the murders and sentenced them to 15 years in jail.

Last year, Shining Path members killed a journalist who worked for the national intelligence system in the town of Huancayo, in the Peruvian central mountain region.

Terrorists Plant Bombs in Lima Restaurant

PY2701205789 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] The luxurious restaurant El Salto del Fraile, located in La Herradura beach, was under strict police protection this morning after last night's terrorist attack. Damage was heavy.

The famous restaurant is under heavy police protection today. Today employees will begin to evaluate the damage to the restaurant, located in front of La Herradura beach. According to initial evaluations, the restaurant was badly damaged.

Last night, a group of heavily-armed terrorists stormed the restaurant, and after overpowering the many customers, they planted several bombs. After setting off the bombs, the terrorists fled in the dark. Fortunately, only the building was damaged.

Venezuela

Lusinchi Delivers State-of-the-Nation Address

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[State-of-the-Nation speech by President Jaime Lusinchi at the National Congress in Caracas—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In fulfillment of an important constitutional provision, it is my duty today to appear before the Venezuelan people's representatives to submit a responsible and accurate report on my efforts as head of government in 1988.

This is the last year of the mandate that the Venezuelan people gave me when they elected me president of the Republic. [passage omitted] According to the commitment I have reiterated and fulfilled in the preceding years, I do not intend to give a detailed account of the policies, projects, or circumstances of this reporting year, or of my 5-year term. All this is covered by the document I am delivering to you together with the cabinet ministers' reports and accounts. You will find in them the material you need to analyze and judge our efforts. [passage omitted]

It was my fate to be president during a period of hardships, which had to be confronted, as everybody knows, and there were setbacks like the unforeseeable and extreme fall in public revenues, which tested our decisionmaking abilities.

We should now reflect on the times we are going through. Governing with good judgment, harmony, and balance is becoming increasingly difficult. I set out to do this as a presidential obligation. I faced huge obstacles, misunderstandings, and the never open, always secret or hidden tug-of-war between conflicting interests. The government did not stop pursuing its goals, and we have not done so up to the last minute.

However, the government's flexibility, its frequent generosity, its desire to create harmony and avoid confrontation, and its attempts to foster understanding have probably not been reciprocated as expected. Selfishness predominated in the end. Fear and manipulation—which are no more than pressures from powerful groups seeking advantages for themselves that disrupt society—have prevailed, and the people, particularly the lower income groups, have suffered hardships that are unjustified in a country whose state continues to be—in spite of everything—a welfare state.

Lately, there has been a debate about the role and function of the state within democratic society in a country such as Venezuela. Perhaps nothing would be better than to deepen this debate. It is time for each major sector of society to assume its respective responsibilities. [passage omitted]

Now, I am obliged to turn to the state of the nation.

During my 5-year term, we have made a serious effort to restore health to the economy and resume economic growth. To be meaningful, our assessment must weigh the assets and liabilities of our administration and arrive at a final balance of the well-being achieved to make a fair evaluation of the administration's efforts.

Basic macroeconomic indicators and the diagnosis itself may involve many variables and point specifically to one or more aspects that may be regarded as fundamental. However, it is clear that experts have reached a degree of agreement that one indicator that reflects the general health of an economy is the ratio of growth of gross real national income to population growth. Accordingly, we can report with real satisfaction as Venezuelans a definite reversal in the trend toward impoverishment that seemed to intensify in the previous term. We can show that during this reporting year we grew 4.2 percent. Adding this to the growth in my previous terms, there is a total positive growth in the GNP of 16.2 percent during the last 4 years, compared to an aggregate population growth of 10.7 percent during the same period. [passage omitted]

The modernization, strengthening, and internationalization of our oil industry are already a reality. We must stress, however, that the international oil market has faced great difficulties. We have made great efforts to support oil prices and we have acted persistently, resolutely, and in coordination with others to improve prices.

The November 1988 OPEC agreement solved problems that had been damaging our organization since 1986. The agreement created a new climate of understanding within OPEC and made us more optimistic about the oil market's future.

At present, oil prices are up and factors indicating reasonable and stable oil prices in the future have strengthened. Meanwhile, we are conducting a well-programmed and aggressive policy of modernization, diversification, and internationalization of the oil industry. [passage omitted]

The publishing, film, radio, television, and musical production industries, which are prospering, have been firmly supported by the government and the nation. I will just mention the state-owned radio and television networks, where we have reached our two initial goals: to become financially self-sufficient and to make high quality broadcasts. This state industry is now financially sound, self-sufficient, and has achieved a high level of technical and professional quality. The manager deserves recognition.

One of the government's earliest priorities has been the fight against drug trafficking. We have made great efforts and, as a result, substantial progress. If there is one topic on which the government has reached a consensus, it is certainly this political determination to take action, both here and abroad. Venezuela is already aware of the danger posed by drugs. Fortunately, our national institutions reject drugs as a solution to problems and condemn drug trafficking as the most wicked commercial activity of all time. We say this proudly because it demonstrates the country's moral strength and health. We must persist together in this struggle because we cannot neglect or ignore this multifaceted scourge. This persistence is essential.

We have continued to consolidate the fundamental principles of equality, justice, and equity and to preserve the safety and property of our people at a time of regional

and international socioeconomic crisis, and against harmful and mind-distorting drugs. This is not an easy task, but it is a fundamental one. Venezuelan society and the government have been concerned with the proper administration of justice, with improving our public order forces and the judicial police, and with crime-prevention and prison policies that deter crime and rehabilitate violators. I insist on the need for everyone in society to try to achieve the objectives I have mentioned because the very existence of society is at stake.

Consciously or unconsciously, the modern world seems to place us in a process where our best efforts are devoted to material goals. We measure collective and individual progress in terms of accumulated wealth. We speak of raw materials, industrial processes, the latest scientific and technological developments, and the need to preserve and increase our material possessions. Yet we do not seem to understand that humanity must be the object of our actions and that man only lives and is fulfilled within an organic process that guarantees his physical, cultural, and spiritual development. Therefore, I insist that our main purpose is not to keep a detailed account of, or feel vain pride in, our achievements in these areas, but to put all the wealth we can create at the service of mankind. This is and will continue to be our main purpose.

I promised to be a president who would tell the truth to the nation and objectively present the facts and possibilities at all times. Therefore, I must present our true situation and outline a firm groundwork for the tasks ahead.

It is true we have grown economically and that we have achieved faster development than in 1984. We have improved agriculture, industry, and construction, and recovered our confidence in Venezuela's future. Inflation is still within tolerable levels compared with other developing countries. Similarly, we have successfully tackled unemployment. The indexes are positive and encouraging. It is pointless to question them narrowly with a desire for revenge.

But it is also true that we still have many problems to solve and important challenges to meet in the future. We have serious balance of payment problems. We also have fiscal and monetary difficulties. We face serious challenges in our struggle against inflation. All of these problems are largely determined by the heavy burden of the foreign debt carried over from previous periods, by the drop in oil prices, and by the country's huge efforts to recover economically in a climate of social peace. These problems have harmed the production system, public administration, and the credibility and prestige of the country.

However, we must admit to some extent that inertia and wealth easily obtained in the past, the failure to understand the need to make a greater common effort, the errors common to all human actions, and the need to take actions under trying political circumstances—and this must be clear—have contributed to the existence of these problems. I am saying all this with the hope that we will begin to face our problems. [Words indistinct] that my government was a government of transition and that we had to rule during difficult times. I am mentioning this again today because that is how it was. However, my responsibility to Venezuela also obliges me to say that the transition has not been achieved because—I repeat—the damage done to the country has been very serious. The incoming government will also face difficulties as big or even greater than the difficulties we faced.

It is of the utmost importance that all Venezuelans understand very clearly these circumstances and spare no efforts to help in the important tasks that the government that will be inaugurated on 2 February will face. Understanding the circumstances and supporting the new government will be necessary not only to successfully overcome the difficult times Venezuela is going through, but also to consolidate what we have accomplished and to guarantee a realistic starting point on the road toward realizing our great possibilities. It is possible to accomplish this, but it will be a difficult task.

My 5-year term has taken place under the debilitating influence of the foreign debt. In all my statements since 1984, I have expressed the position of my government in saying, and I quote: Venezuela will pay all its debts. It cannot do otherwise, unquote. This was simply a logical conclusion. I also added, quote: I believe this objective has to be met without adversely affecting the regular operation of the government, particularly my government, which is closely linked to just and unfulfilled demands for the well-being of the people. Unquote. I believe we have been consistent in this regard. To pay the debt was unavoidable. It was the biggest burden my government had to bear in February 1984, and this burden has left an indelible mark on our government.

When I assumed power, no one knew how much our country owed and to whom we owed it. There was a full and disorganized sea of big and little debts that had to sorted out. [applause] It was a truly difficult and complicated task. While we were carrying out this task, some strange opinions were expressed. It is distressing to say this, but we must say it. I am certainly not making now a sensational announcement: We assumed the commitment to pay the debt, and we payed it as long as was possible. We did it fully aware of the burden this represented for the country; however, there were no other responsible alternatives. It was—and let us remember this—a decision we wanted and a decision we shared.

When these decisions were made, oil prices had not entered into the problem and compounded the crisis that has prevailed in the world market until recently, nor had the international climate matured. The critics of my government's policies on the foreign debt are diverse and range from those who naively think we can say we are not paying the debt to those who are fully aware of the

inconsistency of their positions, yet dispense obviously demagogic criticism anyway. I will not defend to the death now or later my government's policy on this very controversial issue. To understand this issue, one need only to imagine circumstances different from the actual circumstances, always recognizing the advantages of those who make prophesies about the past. Some have noted that we should have been more inflexible during the negotiations, that we should not have trusted the international banks and their understanding of the Venezuelan situation and our clear desire to honor the commitments—which was obvious from the beginning of our term—so much. I will do everything but defend international banking, which once again has showed its inability to recognize the reality of its selfishness, its inflexibility, and its lack of intelligence.

There is no doubt that a different perception is taking shape now in the industrialized world regarding the foreign debt problem. Industrialized nations are beginning to recognize that our arguments are valid, that the economic situation in our countries will also hopelessly affect the economies of industrialized nations, as is happening with the United States, whose trade with developing countries is one-third of its total trade. Industrialized countries are now beginning to realize that it is not possible to continue transferring resources from Third World countries, which in 1988 amounted to $43 billion in debt service alone. There has been a loud and clear demand for these policies to be revised.

During my administration, Venezuela has taken part, and to no small extent, in the creation of this awareness. We have been working on and holding clear positions in world forums, particularly the United Nations, the Group of Eight, and the Cartagena agreement. Those positions are summed up in the principle that it is not possible to pay debts by contracting new debts. We said we would pay according to our ability, provided it was compatible with the economic stability and the minimum living standards accepted by our people. This is how it has been done, and it has required some sacrifices that were certainly not the responsibility of this government. This was the price we have all had to pay, and will have to pay again, because of certain decisions that were made and because of the unjust world in which we live. We have fought with determination to make changes and transformations in the name of justice.

Regarding the current foreign debt situation, I must again reiterate that the combination of the drop in oil prices, the failure of the [debt] refinancing—which is common to all debtor countries—and the selfish lack of understanding and nonfulfillment of duties by creditor countries has placed us in an unendurable situation which must be urgently resolved. Our current position is that we cannot continue repaying the debt unless we obtain a substantial reduction in the debt service and assurances that we will get new loans. We have had enough illusions, false promises, and halfhearted and transient solutions. Let us go straight to the point. Stark reality forces each of us to rectify and adjust his conduct.

Let us remember once again, in case anyone has forgotten, that not one dollar of that debt was contracted by my government. [applause] [passage omitted]

I am very glad to be here at the Congress of the Republic to deliver my state-of-the-nation speech as Venezuelan president. I have been away from this house of democracy and pluralism for five years. I have been linked to the [Congress], because of my own motivation and desire, during all the years of Venezuelan democracy, which began in 1958. I will return to this home, my home, as a life-member senator, willing to work with all of you, as soon as it is necessary, in the Venezuelan search for a just democracy, without privileged or subservient classes. I will return to this, my home, with an invaluable political and human experience, with knowledge of the state and of the huge difficulties of governing, and also with some experience of the complexity of the decisionmaking process. I will return more convinced than ever of the value of dialogue, and with more confidence than ever in the possibility of reaching understanding among the various groups that make up our national political life and which are represented here. I will return as a force for understanding and conciliation, bringing deep concern for the vital issues of Venezuela.

I will always act with moderation and honesty and keep my commitment to the people, I promise.

On 2 February I will hand over the symbols of power to an old friend, to a companero with whom I have walked a long way in the Democratic Action Party ranks. I am aware of the goodwill that encourages and motivates President Carlos Andres Perez. Because I know him, I know of his desire to go down in history. He will take over the country and the government in difficult times, amid expectations that will encourage his actions. He is the first president in the democratic era to return to power. He knows this is a privilege and also a commitment.

It is obvious I am pleased about this, and that I see the handing over of these symbols of power also as a privilege and as a triumph for myself. [applause] Clearly, I am now offering my most spontaneous and disinterested personal support for his success which, in the end, will be the success of Venezuela and of our democracy. I will hand power over to him deeply touched by the confidence, friendship, and generosity of all Venezuelans who understand how we faced countless difficulties and tried to solve them evenhandedly. I am handing power over to [the president]—and I can say this without modesty—fully convinced that my actions and efforts were not in vain and that I am leaving, and you can judge this later, a work that will in some way consolidate our democracy.

I will be handing power over to [the president] on 2 February with the calm and peaceful spirit of those who have acted in good faith and who hope for a fair verdict. I have been a politician for quite a long time and I will be ready to continue serving Venezuela in this forum. Once again, I want to invoke Simon Bolivar's great memory to renew the commitment. Thank you very much. [applause]

Lusinchi Denies Human Rights Violations

PA2901043289 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2107 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Caracas, 28 Jan (DPA)— Responding to a statement issued by Amnesty International (AI) on Thursday, Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi today denied that human rights are being violated in Venezuela under his government.

During a public ceremony held in Guanare, central Venezuela, today, Lusinchi said: "No one is systematically tortured or killed in Venezuela today. Whoever says that is deliberately lying."

According to AI, human rights abuses, especially homicides, excesses committed by the military and police forces, as well as the harassment of journalists and opposition politicians have been registered in Venezuela in the past few months.

Asked about this, Lusinchi said that these reports are "a vile trick manipulated from Venezuela by certain individuals who do not care about the damage they are doing to the country."

Perez on Future Relations, IMF Negotiations

PA2801215389 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] President-elect Carlos Andres Perez reasserted tonight that Venezuela will deal with the IMF, but it will not follow IMF guidelines to the letter. He said that Venezuela will instead outline its views regarding what we think we must do to solve our economic problems. Of course, he added, we will agree on some points.

[Begin Perez recording] This means that Venezuela will negotiate with the IMF, which is at the head of the international financial system. Whether this is a good or bad thing is a different subject, but this is the international financial system to which we belong.

Second, we are going to take advantage of the opportunity that is opening up in the international realm to unify the Latin American countries and to present concrete negotiation formulas to the industrialized countries. A moment ago a newsman told me that we are witnessing a historical development, namely the resumption of the North-South dialogue. This is true insofar as the debt is concerned, because it has brought us together to confront the situation.

It is true: We are going to negotiate with the IMF, and we are going to use the money we have in the IMF. It belongs to us. We are going to submit a plan to the IMF to solve Venezuela's economic and financial problems in keeping with our interests. The IMF is not going to tell us what to do. Instead, we will tell the IMF what we admit we have to do to reinvigorate our economy and to solve our problems. Of course, we will concur with many of the IMF's proposals. [end recording]

Perez made these statements in advance of the proposals he will present tomorrow in Switzerland before an economic forum of over 400 high-ranking representatives of the international political and economic community, one of whom is the IMF president.

OPEC Ministers To Meet in Caracas With Perez

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[Excerpts] Beginning Sunday [29 January] and for several days thereafter, Caracas will be the oil capital of the world with Venezuela hosting an OPEC minister's meeting. The OPEC ministers will also hold an important meeting with President-elect Carlos Andres Perez. The political will of seven OPEC member countries will be strengthened during the meeting. They are determined to continue their efforts to help boost the price of oil by cutting production. With this important meeting, a new oil-policy era will begin.

Eight of the nine OPEC ministers invited to Venezuela to attend the swearing-in ceremony of President-elect Carlos Andres Perez will attend this very important meeting. The meeting had been scheduled for 1 February; however, in light of the unpostponable engagements made by some of the oil ministers, the meeting was rescheduled for Tuesday, 31 January. [passage omitted]

The OPEC minister's meeting will begin at 1400 on Tuesday. At that time, Julio Cesar Gil, Venezuelan mines and energy minister, Celestino Armas [chairman of the Venezuelan Chamber of Mines and Hydrocarbons], and the seven OPEC ministers will meet with the secretary of OPEC. The meeting with Carlos Andres Perez is scheduled for 1600 on Tuesday. The meeting is expected to last 90 minutes since the cocktail hour has been set for 1730. At 2000 President Carlos Andres Perez will host a dinner in honor of the ministers at the Sheraton Hotel.

There has been total silence regarding the topics to be discussed by Perez and the ministers; however, the fact that these ministers represent the countries that are members of the price, production, and long-term strategies committees of OPEC is very important. It was also learned that during the meeting, the president-elect may discuss the changes he wishes to make regarding Venezuelan oil policy. Perez seeks a more influential role within the organization.

Even though this will not be an official OPEC meeting, the new Venezuelan authorities feel that it will be very helpful in reinforcing new OPEC policies that have helped oil prices rebound in the past few weeks. [passage omitted]

No announcement regarding a news conference has been made.

Castro Inauguration Attendance 'Very Improbable'
PA3001150789 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1420 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Caracas, 30 Jan (DPA)—Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez said on his arrival in Caracas that it is very improbable that Cuban President Fidel Castro will attend the inauguration of Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez.

According to Rodriguez, it is "almost certain" that Castro will not attend the inauguration. He did not, however, give specific reasons for Castro not attending.

Although Castro's visit has not been officially announced, political and journalistic circles believe it is a fact that Castro will come. He would join 24 other chiefs of state or government who plan to attend the inauguration.

It has been learned that some of Castros bodyguards and aides arrived in Caracas several days ago.

Right-wing sectors, some of which are financed by Cubans residing in Venezuela, have carried out an intense publicity campaign against the presence of the Cuban revolutionary leader in Venezuela.

Honduras' Azcona Arrives for Inauguration
PA3001173689 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1330 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Caracas, 30 Jan (DPA)—Honduran President Jose Azcona arrived in Caracas during the evening of 29 January. He is the first of 25 heads of state or government to arrive to attend the inauguration of Carlos Andres Perez, the new Venezuelan president.

Azcona, who will spend 6 days in Caracas, is accompanied by his foreign minister, Carlos Lopez, and Armed Forces Chief General Humberto Regalado, among other officials.

It has also been reported that all the Nicaraguan Resistance directorate members will attend the ceremony and try to meet with some of the top dignitaries arriving in Caracas.

The contra leaders who have said they will attend the event are Adolfo Calero, Roberto Ferrer, Aristides Sanchez, Diego Wikliff, Wilfredo Montalvan, and Alfredo Cesar.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega is one of the heads of state who will attend the event.

Another leader due to arrive in Caracas in the next few hours is Ricardo Lagos, one of the leading Chilean opposition members, who, in addition to participating in the ceremony, will attend the forum "Latin America on the threshold of the 21st Century," which was organized by a studies center sponsored by social democrats.

Caracas will be a center of world attention this week because of the number of personalities who are attending Perez' inauguration Thursday.